

THE North-China Herald

AND
SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XXI., No. 595. SHANGHAI, OCTOBER 17, 1878. PRICE, Tls. 12 ½ AN.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1869.

IN THE CROYDON COUNTY COURT
holden at
CROYDON, IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY.

IN THE MATTER of proceedings for liquidation by arrangement or composition with Creditors, instituted by EDWARD HOLDSWORTH, of No. 2, Chesterfield Villas, Dingwall-road, East Croydon, in the County of Surrey, Merchant—formerly of Shanghai, in the Empire of China—and until lately trading under the style or firm of “EDWARD HOLDSWORTH.”

JAMES BANKS TAYLOR of No. 25, Austin Friars, in the City of London, and JAMES BLYTH LECKIE, of No. 11, New Broad-street, in the said City, Merchants, have been appointed Trustees of the property of the Debtor.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the Debtor must deliver them to the Trustees, and all debts due to the Debtor must be paid to the Trustees.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their proofs of debts to the Trustees.

Dated this 13th day of August, 1878.

W. H. ROWLAND,
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For aches or pains, contracted and stiff joints,—for coughs and colds (which latter often settle upon the chest, producing fatal consequences) let the afflicted parts be effectually rubbed with the Ointment, as salt is into meat, and a certain cure will only be a question of time and patience. 4i tf

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THE undersigned having been appointed Agents of the above Society are prepared to grant Policies against fire on the usual terms and conditions.

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 31de 1858 Shanghai, 8th Jan., 1876.

THE North-China Herald AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XXI, No. 595. SHANGHAI, OCTOBER 17, 1878. PRICE, Tls. 12 7/8 AN.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England, ...	Aug. 30	Hankow, ...	Oct. 13
San Francisco, ...	Sept. 2	Yokohama, ...	" 8
Hongkong, ...	Oct. 10	Nagasaki, ...	" 9
Tientsin, ...	" 13	Foochow, ...	" 9

Latest Mail dates in England, from China.
 Hongkong, ...

BIRTHS.

At No. 1, Miller Road, Hongkew, 14th Oct., the wife of WM. YOUNGSON, Imperial Maritime Customs' Service, of a son.

At Hankow, on the 11th October, the wife of F. W. WHITE, Esq., of a daughter.

At Foochow, on the 29th Sept., the wife of Rev. W. W. HAWKINS, M.A., British Chaplain, of a daughter, still-born.

MARRIAGE.

At the Parish Church, Batley, Yorkshre, on the 15th August, by the Rev. T. G. Davies, M.A., Vicar, JAMES STOCKWELL, L.R.C.P. and R.C.S.E., to ISABEL MARY, widow of the late Chas. E. Kofod, Shanghai. No Cards.

DEATH.

At Chefoo, on the 5th October, Miss LYDIA M. FAY, for 28 years a Missionary of the American Episcopal Church in China.

THE publication of the *North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette* commenced at 4.15 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 1878.

To judge from the negotiations between China and Russia, as well as from the interference of the former power in Afghanistan, it would seem that the events of the last twelve months in Europe have by no means ended the Eastern question, but that it is likely to crop up in a new form before many months are past. So far as can be judged from what has been permitted to leak out with regard to the demands of China, they are almost certain of a refusal, and it will become the Government at Peking to ponder well the course it intends to adopt in such a contingency. Some of the demands of China are of a nature not sanctioned by the ordinary usages of international courtesy. The right of asylum has always been jealously guarded by all Powers with a pretence to humanity, and it may be remembered that Turkey in 1849 earned for herself the respect of most of the Powers of Europe by her steady refusal to part, even under the menaces of Russia and Austria, with the Hungarian refugees who had taken shelter on her soil. It is said that one of the points which Chung-how is directed to press is the rendition of the son of the late Ameer, who fled with some of his followers and took refuge on Russian soil. In such a request China may rest assured she will have no backers. The disgraceful scenes which have followed the Chinese occupation of the towns of

Eastern Turkestan have made no friends for China, and it would be well for China herself to recall the fact that more than one dynasty has owed its establishment to the fact that its founder, originally as much a rebel as the late Ameer, has restrained his troops from plunder. The most noteworthy instance of this abstinence from reprisals is to be noticed in the case of the founder of the Ming dynasty, who alone amongst a number of rebels possessed the good sense to make allies of the vanquished, and who, from being a fugitive Buddhist priest, finally succeeded in recovering the Empire from the hands of the Mongols. To similar acts the founder of the Kins owed his conquest of the North of China; and it is not too much to say that had the rebel Hung Siu-tainen, instead of beheading or torturing his captives, refrained from plundering the captured cities and had established a proper government in the places under his sway, the Empire of China would long ere this have changed hands. There is no doubt that in many points China has right on her side in her complaints against Russia. She accepted the officious aid of a Power greedy of territorial expansion, and has had to suffer the natural result of finding that she has had to pay too dearly for the help afforded. So far, Chung-how will have with him the sympathies of most of the European Powers, and it would be well if the further demands of a surrender of refugees were omitted from his instructions. The situation of China with regard to the territory occupied by Russia, is a sufficiently difficult one without complicating it still further by making demands which will meet with the support of no right-minded man. We have always deprecated the action of China with respect to Eastern Turkestan, as sure in the end to involve her in a dispute with Russia. Russia has for many years cast a longing eye on the plains of Yarkand and Kashgar; but so long as they were held by the late Ameer, Russian Generals hesitated to make a regular invasion. With Yakub-beg's death the great obstacle to Russian advance was removed,

and that Power is now evidently preparing to take advantage of the opportunity. Tso's army has distinguished itself by its recent capture of Turkestan, but it is well to remember that the difficulties, great as they were, of keeping up an efficient force at the Yuh-men-kwan or at Hami, were but slight compared with those to be experienced at Kashgar. The people were notoriously troublesome and difficult to keep in order. The strong will of the late Ameer, a Mussulman like themselves, and sprang from the same stock, was scarcely successful in repressing the tendency to revolt during his lifetime. A few weeks after his death the old strife broke out afresh, with the result that Tso won a comparatively bloodless victory. In the old days of the strong Government of K'ien-lung, the Chinese garrisons found it difficult to protect themselves, and had no force to spare for exercising any influence on their neighbours. It is unlikely in these days of disintegration that any effective stand could be made at Kashgar against a foreign enemy sure to be in league with one or other of the factors which have always rendered nugatory any lasting attempt to form a kingdom in Eastern Turkestan.

Summary of News.

The English mail of the 30th August arrived on the 11th October, by the P. & O. steamship *Nizam*.

A mail leaves to-morrow for Europe, by the P. & O. steamship *Venetia*.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Via Russia.)

Supplied to the "N.-C. Daily News," St. Petersburg, 7th October.

The Russian Press says that the Government will reject the demands of the Chinese.

London, 8th October.

The stock markets are improving and apprehensions subsiding.

Constantinople, 8th October.

The Porte refuses finally to carry out the Austrian Convention.

The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has informed the Porte that the withdrawal of Russian troops would be stopped, in consequence of the murders in the evacuated districts.

London, 9th October.

Jester is the winner of the Cesarewitch. Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Whalley, M.P., are dead.

Constantinople, 12th Oct.

The Russians decline to evacuate Burgos and Kerkilissa.

London, 13th Oct.

A fire has occurred at a Theatre in Liverpool, at which thirty-seven persons were killed and many others injured.

Messrs. Heugh Balfour & Co., of Manchester, have stopped. The liabilities are said to be £1,500,000.

Yesterday afternoon, in the Supreme Court, Chief Justice French said that he might announce to the Bar that he had just received a telegram from the Marquis of Salisbury to the effect that R. A. Mowat,

Esq., was to be appointed Assistant-Judge of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, under the recent Order in Council, which, his Lordship added, was to come into operation in January next.—This appointment will, we feel sure, give the greatest possible satisfaction to all who may at any time have had business requiring their attendance at the Supreme Court. Mr. Mowat's close attention to the onerous duties he has hitherto had to perform, the urbane manner in which he has performed those duties, coupled with his genial disposition on all occasions, have undoubtedly won for him the esteem and good wishes not only of the Bar of Shanghai, but of all with whom he has been brought in contact either professionally or socially. To this general recognition of valued services, we desire to add our own congratulations on Mr. Mowat's well-deserved appointment.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred the Degree of Bachelor of Divinity on the Rev. Arthur E. Moule, of Hangchow, as a recognition of his services in the Mission field in the province of Cheh-kiang, and specially for his translation of the XXXIX Articles into Chinese. The last "Lambeth" Degree, given in China, was conferred by Archbishop Sumner on the Rev. John Hobson, British Consular Chaplain at Shanghai.

Our obituary contains the name of Miss Lydia M. Fay, who died on Saturday, October 5th, at Chefoo. She had worked for twenty-eight years as a Missionary in China, and her loss will be felt by all who had the privilege of her acquaintance as well as by the natives, by whom she was held in sincere respect.

Among the passengers who arrived Monday by the *Hankwang*, from Chefoo, was Chief Justice French, who, we are glad to learn, is much improved in health.

The first ordinary half-yearly meeting of the North-China Insurance Company under its new constitution on a permanent basis, was held on Monday at the offices, Hankow Road. The premia for the half-year amounted to Tls. 650,597 and the losses to Tls. 157,899, leaving a balance of Tls. 446,369, to be carried from the Working Account to the credit of the Company. The report and accounts were adopted, and the election of Messrs. D. Brand and Mr. C. L. Grant to the Directorate, in the place of Messrs. M. S. Gubbay and F. H. Bell, was confirmed.

An action, the *Tong Foo-chang hong v. E. H. Lazarus*, which was a claim to recover Tls. 3,282, as the payment for sixty-seven bales of straw braid, has been tried in H.M.'s Supreme Court before R. A. Mowat, Esq., Deputy Chief Judge, and a Jury consisting of Messrs. W. B. Chalmers, J. Walter, J. Sharp, C. J. Shury and R. Law. The facts of the case, briefly related, were that on the 16th September last, plaintiffs, through J. M. Walker, a broker, sold sixty-seven bales of straw braid to the defendant, at Tls. 52 per bale, payment to be made on delivery. During the negotiations, Walker, in the defendant's office, signed two documents setting forth that he was the principal in the transaction, and after the braid had been delivered and accepted he solicited

payment from the defendant. Thereupon defendant produced the account sales of a previous shipment of deer skins by him on Walker's account, showing a loss of Tls. 1,744, and in settlement of the two transactions tendered him a cheque for Tls. 1,538, making the deduction of Tls. 1,744 from the amount of Tls. 3,282 due for the straw braid. Walker then disputed that he was the principal in the straw braid transaction and refused to accept the cheque, hence the present action. Defendant paid into Court the Tls. 1,538, and denied all further liability. The case occupied the Court a considerable time, and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiffs. A lengthy report of the proceedings will be given in next week's *N.-C. Herald*.

The complaint of our correspondent, whose letter appears on another page, that any person, whether holding a certificate of competency or not, may be placed in command of any British ship in China or Japan, certainly seems to deserve attention. There is no reason why rules found to act well in other parts of the world should be relaxed in China, and the very fact that incompetent men find it impossible under present forms to obtain employment elsewhere, will naturally tend to draw them to China, where commands can be obtained on such easy terms. Our correspondent points out that the local Insurance offices are largely interested in upholding the standard of seamanship; but beyond this, there are the considerations of safety to the lives of crews and passengers to be taken into serious account. It seems like an undoing of all the recent legislation on the subject of shipping, to depart from so useful a device as that of requiring official certificates of competency. The sentence of a Naval Court suspending or confiscating that certificate is at present a severe punishment in cases of incompetency; but if no certificate at all be needed, an enquiry into the causes of a disaster will be nothing more than a farce, so far as the position of the shipmaster is concerned.

The steamship *Eldorado* arrived on Saturday from England. She is another addition to the fleet of the China Coast Steam Navigation Company, and is intended for the Northern line.

The last round trip of the s.s. *Haeting* is, says the *Foochow Herald*, perhaps worth noting. She left Pagoda Anchorage at 6 A.M., on Saturday, the 21st ultimo, for Shanghai, and returned to Foochow on Wednesday evening, the 25th ulto.—having made the round trip (Foochow to Shanghai and back) in four days and a-half.

The steamers *Nizam*, *Eldorado*, *Fuyew* and *Ningpo*, experienced a typhoon during their recent passage from Hongkong, but happily none of them sustained any serious damage. They report passing the British barque *Arabia* running under jury masts. Assistance was offered her but she signalled that it was not required. She appeared to be going into Amoy.

On another page will be found a translation of the memorial by the Governor of Ch'ih-kiang, on the late disturbances at Ch'ü-shan, which we have been enabled to obtain in advance of its publication in the *Peking Gazette*. It is of considerable length, but the importance evidently attached to

the whole affair by the native officials of the locality, as well as at Peking, justifies the space occupied; besides, so much has been said about the risings, that a careful translation cannot be otherwise than acceptable.—The decree in reply to the memorial was published in the *N.-C. Herald* of the 10th instant.

The fourth section of the *Peking Gazette* of the 7th September, which appears on another page, will be read with interest, as showing in plainer terms than have been ever before employed, the fact of the intimate connection of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company with the Imperial Government. The section in question refers to a postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang, representing the onerous duties of the native officers of the Company, &c., and recommending that an expectant Taotai, named Yeh T'ing-ch'un, should join Tong-king-sing and Sü Jun in the general management of its interests. His qualifications for such a post are stated to be his "experience, in the several capacities of superintendent of defence works at Sunkiang, as Magistrate at Shanghai, superintendent of grain transport, etc., in the conduct of official business." How such duties as those enumerated can qualify any one for the post of co-manager of an extensive commercial company will not strike a foreigner so clearly as they appear to have struck Li Hung-chang and the Peking authorities who have noted the appointment.

The *Peking Gazette* of the 9th September, which will be found on another page, contains the official version of an affair which has formed the basis of an article in the last number of the *China Review*, from the pen of Mr. G. M. H. Playfair, entitled "Perkin Warbeck in China." The memorial is interesting as illustrating how easily the credulity of Chinese village folk can be taken advantage of. It is astonishing how so barefaced an imposture could have been successful.

We hear from a private, but reliable source, that an American gentleman who some time since left CHINKIANG for his home in the United States, has become so disgusted with the kind of domestic "helps" to be obtained in his present neighbourhood, that he has written to a friend in the above Outport to send him, if possible, his former Chinese servants! The coveted Celestials have been found, and are now in Shanghai awaiting passage next week.—Keen satire this, on the attempts being made to stop Chinese emigration to the States.

The weather-wise at NEWCHWANG prognosticate an early winter on account of the earlier (than usual) departure of the swallows, and the vagaries of numerous wild fowl who seem restless and undecided whether to stay a short while or not on their way in search of quarters. There have been from two to three degrees of frost already. The steamers *Atalanta*, *Cassandra*, and *Alverton* are clearing for Swatow with produce; and a large fleet of vessels may still be looked for before the close of the port.

For a variety of other news from the OUTPORTS, JAPAN, &c., see succeeding pages.

Editorial Selections.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS' S. N. CO.'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

THE Reports of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company afford an instructive commentary on the means which have been pursued of late by the predominant faction in the Empire. Started on the basis of rendering the position of foreigners in China unendurable, and boasting of their approaching annihilation, it has now been discovered by its managers that the powers even of a Government may be limited, and that there are regions into which none but the most hair-brained of politicians will step. That in fact Government is one thing, and commercial enterprise another; and that the attempt to amalgamate the two must of necessity result in injuring the cause of both one and the other. The report of the Company published in 1876 spoke boastfully of the project of establishing a "Grain Convoy and Public Carrying Company," with the object of diverting to China the profits of the traffic. "During several years previously, foreign companies made yearly profits of several millions, but since the establishment of the China Merchants' Company, their receipts are reported to be sufficient only for their expenses. Their profits have been limited; the drain of the Chinese money is stopped, and the conveyance of merchandise no longer confined to foreign bottoms.—In making the foregoing statements, the Directors do not perversely oppose themselves to public opinion. They are convinced that, by pursuing steadfastly their present line of action it will in the end be proved that, instead of injury great benefit must result from their policy." After two years more of existence it is useful to examine how far these objects have been gained; what is the sum of profit which has been diverted to China through the operations of the China Merchants' Company, and what the benefit which has resulted or is likely to result through their policy.

At the beginning we may say that the accounts of the China Merchants' Company are not remarkable for lucidity, and that their comprehensibility does not improve as time goes on. In Europe, where shareholders are at least supposed to have the power of investigating accounts, some little attention is paid to their intelligible rendering. As, however, shareholders of the China Merchants' Company have only contributed 750,000 taels out of a capital returned at upwards of five millions, there is probably not much inducement to make them too clear. Last year, in reviewing the position of the Company, we spoke of the difficulty of ascertaining the meaning of the accounts. Last year's accounts were however lucidity itself compared with those the Company now puts forward. Other changes may likewise be noticed.

In the first noticed report, the Directors of the Company spoke with an affectation of modesty of their position. They were Directors, they did not state how, and "as in duty bound by the laws of the Company, they have to request that shareholders will proceed to elect in their place others more deserving and capable than themselves." In No. II, the form of address was somewhat changed; the Directors simply "hope to have the consideration of the shareholders." No. III leaves even this appeal out, "It is now five years since the Directors had the honour to receive instructions from the Earl Li to undertake the management of the Company." They have rendered accounts not as in duty bound, but that the shareholders may be "induced to make themselves acquainted therewith." The want of confidence between the Directors and the shareholders has been growing greater year by year; and this, if nothing else, is plainly shown in the position of the capital fund. At the time of the first published Report, up to September, 1876, the capital subscribed was 685,000 taels out of a total indebtedness of a little over two millions. By the next year the amount of share capital had increased to 730,000 taels, or an increment of 45,000 taels, while the entire indebtedness was increased by nearly three millions to 4,763,000 taels. During the year just passed, but 20,000 taels have been subscribed from all sources, while the indebtedness of the Company has increased, by some 400,000 taels, to 5,164,000 taels.

Last year, in reviewing the position of the Company, we pointed out that while its property had been increased by the purchase of the S.S.N. Co. and of property from Messrs. Russell and Co., the nominal value had been further increased by about 230,000 taels in addition to the cost price, and that no explanation of this extraordinary result was given in the accounts. No allowance had been made, moreover, for depreciation, which on property of the nature of that belonging to the Company should at the time of the last report have amounted to about 580,000 taels. This year a still more extraordinary statement of assets is put forward. The *Aden*, originally valued, according to the report of 1876, at 200,000 taels, although a bulk for three years, seems not to have been written off yet, as the overvaluation placed on the fleet in 1877 cannot apparently be otherwise accounted for. The fleet according to the report consists now of 31 steamers, against 28 in 1877. During the year the *Housang* and *Szechuen* were lost, both valuable vessels, and the fleet was reinforced apparently, for we are not given details, by the acquisition of the *Soochow*, the *Hwai-yuen*, the *Ta-yew*, one of the Foochow gunboats, and the sailing-vessel *Cheng-ta*. Of these, several had already stood in the Company's books, the *Ta-yew* at 41,500 taels, while there

was reason to believe that the *Hwai-yuen* (late *Calabar*) represented a considerable portion of an asset in the 1877 accounts denoted floating balances. The *Ta-yew* has remained during the greater part of the year inactive; the *Hwai-yuen* has earned a most unsatisfactory reputation; of the others, except the *Soochow*, which latter on the Ningpo line has probably been found a favourable investment, we know little or nothing. During the year, a fact strangely omitted from the Report, the *Fire Queen* has been dismantled, the *Plymouth Rock* is said to be undergoing a similar transformation; the *Fyehow* is, we believe, being repaired at a cost exceeding her value, while the *Fusiyama*, last year razed, is seemingly still on the list. Notwithstanding these facts, the nominal value of the fleet, now mainly consisting of old ships well on their way to being converted into pontoons or sold for old materials, is written up from 2,782,000 taels to 2,829,000. Last year we commented on the large amount of outstanding freights, which amounted to 294,000 taels; this year this item has been apparently reduced to 290,000 taels, but a still more ominous item takes its place—the amount of floating balances due by private persons has increased from 90,000 taels to 237,000 taels. We can only guess at the particulars of this last amount, which has probably been reinforced by writing off some of the excessive amount which we remarked on last year as being due on freight. The valuation of the wharves and godowns has been increased by some 20,000 taels over last year's, but this may have a fair show of reason; though it is well to remember that buildings like ships eventually decay, though the process may be more protracted.

One or two other items in the capital account have a similarly ominous look. There is stated to have been an agreement made at the beginning of the year to pay back advances made by Government at the rate of 150,000 taels per annum. The mode in which this has been done is characteristic. After writing off the value of the *Hou-sang*, apparently, after she is lost, placed at 77,500 taels, and which without any other explanation has been taken out of this liability of 150,000 taels, the balance, 72,500 taels, is placed as a debit in the capital account, increasing thereby apparently the indebtedness of the Company. The amount due on such advances has in the meanwhile increased from 1,866,000 taels to 1,929,000 taels. A still more startling item is to be found in the indebtedness of the Company to banks and private individuals. In the accounts of 1877, this indebtedness, distributed over three items, seems to have amounted to 1,017,000 taels; in those under review it has increased to 1,472,000 taels. In the face of these facts, the Directors of the Company have thought fit to add another charge to the capital

account in the form of a "Stock Dividend" of 5% on the ordinary capital, amounting to upwards of 37,000 taels.

So much for the capital account. The revenue accounts do not exhibit a much more favourable aspect. The gross profits, reckoning all the steamers' accounts which showed a profit, amounted as stated to 520,000 taels, against which in ordinary necessary expenses we find various items amounting to 320,000 taels, leaving apparently 200,000 taels for payment of interest, depreciation, and extraordinary expenses. An extraordinary item appears to the credit of this account in the shape of balances of interest. How such an item in such a place appears, seeing that the acknowledged indebtedness of the Company to the S.S.N. Co., the two Insurance Companies whose shares it has appropriated, and various banks and private individuals, and independent of nearly two millions due to Government, amounting to 2,350,000 taels, we are at a loss to imagine. Some of these sums are guaranteed interest at the rate of 8% per annum; we believe the Company promised to pay the Insurance Shareholders 15%; the balances in the banks are of course subject to the ordinary rate of interest fluctuations from day to day, and this can scarcely be put down at less than 10% per annum. Altogether we may accept the item of 258,500 taels placed on the other side of the revenue account as an approximation to the amount of interest actually due on moneys lent to the Company; the sum of 106,800 taels being probably for interest on Government advances at an approximate rate of 5%. This would indicate a loss on revenue account alone of 165,000 taels, or 22% on the capital. Last year we were able to arrive at an approximate value of the fleet, which seemed to be overvalued by some 570,000 taels. Balancing the additions during the year to the fleet against the losses, and allowing for depreciation, its present value cannot amount to more than two millions of taels. The hulks and small steamers seem to be overvalued at 257,000 taels, but allowing for them 200,000 taels, we make out the assets of the Company to amount to about 3,500,000 taels. To this, adding freights due 290,000 taels, cash in hand 40,000 taels, and probable value of debts owing 50,000 taels, we obtain a total of 3,880,000 taels, against an acknowledged indebtedness of 4,375,000 taels, excluding from the latter the original capital and so-called stock dividend. The shareholders of the Company have been invited to inspect the accounts, "so that they may have a thorough insight into the Company's affairs." These remarks of ours, drawn from an inspection of those accounts, may perhaps aid them in gaining some insight into its present condition.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY.

We should imagine that by this time ordinary readers of English papers, magazines, and reviews, are thoroughly tired of the opium question, indifferent to anything that may be written on one side or the other, and impartially ready to express disgust at the elaborate imbecility which has marked about equally the combatants of either camp. For our purpose it is just now of no importance whether opium is a blessing to China as some foreign merchants asserted not long ago, or, according to the missionary view, a curse as comprehensive as though all the maledictions hurled from Mount Ebal were potentially contained in every chest of it. We have not to ask to what extent the finances of India and the lives of Indian peasants would suffer in the impossible case of the prohibition of poppy cultivation, or how much more brightly the tinsel of the Imperial crown would shine, were the Indian Government to abandon the monopoly. It is nothing to us who brought the drug into China, whether native traders overland, or Portuguese, Dutch or Englishmen by sea. We do not even care to enquire whether poppy fields were not to be seen in China as early as they were planted in India. We leave out of consideration alike the interests of the foreign merchant who deals in opium, of the Chinese Government which derives so large a revenue from its importation, and of the Protestant missionary who denounces it as the great obstacle in his way. To others we bequeath the task of discussing whether imprudence in opium-smoking is more or less injurious than imprudence in opium-eating, or whether the effects of both are comparable one with the other and with the misuse of alcohol. The comparative results of the consumption of native and Indian drug, and the probable or possible economic and political effects of extended poppy cultivation in China, are also outside our present design. Many of these interesting questions have, we may observe, been recently well dealt with by Mr. Hippisley in his excellent and exhaustive report for 1876 on the trade of China within the cognizance of the Maritime Customs under the Foreign Inspectorate.

It would seem, however, that very little can be left to talk or write about when all these subsidiary branches of the great opium question are expressly excluded from consideration; when we decline to deal with its involved chemistry or physiology, with the matters of doctrine, sentiment and conscience that have attached themselves to it, with its history, or with its financial or philanthropic aspects. We will take what is perhaps the only question about opium that cannot possibly raise an acrimonious discussion, and shew where the drug came from in the first instance.

Allusions to the poppy are plentiful in classical literature. The goddess

Ceres was said to have soothed her grief for the loss of Proserpine by swallowing the seeds; and it would also seem that the plants or flowers were offered to the dead, typical probably of tranquillity. The dried juice was used in medicine against dysentery, and for a great number of other affections, including the bites of venomous animals. It was also occasionally employed for the purpose of suicide. Shortly after the Christian era it was lauded as a panacea and denounced as a virulent poison by rival writers. Going farther back, Livy's well-known story of the second Tarquin who led his son's messengers through the palace gardens, and answered their enquiry as to how the town of Gabii should be destroyed, merely by cutting off the heads of the tallest poppies with his staff, shews that at least one species of the plant was held in honour five hundred years before Christ. It is not, however, until we reach Homeric times that we get an indication of the region whence the poppy was first derived. In the fourth book of the *Odyssey*, when Helen has returned to her husband's court, and Telemachus, in the course of his weary search for his father, visits Lacedæmon, a very suggestive scene is described. At the banquet, Helen mingled with the wine "a drug that sets men free from grief and wrath, and causes them to forget all their sorrows. Whoever," says the poet, "drinks of this would not shed a tear though both his father and mother should die, or though a brother or loved son were slain before his eyes." This wonderful drug could scarcely have been any other than opium. It was given to Helen by the wife of Thon, an Egyptian, whose "bountiful land produces a multitude of drugs, many beneficent and many lethal, and where every physician is skilled above all men, for he comes of the stock of Apollo the striker." The identity of the Egyptian nepenthes with opium is strongly insisted on by many Homeric scholars, and Gladstone holds that the lotos eaters of the Libyan coast were Egyptians, and that their "pleasant food" which abolished memory was the same as Helen's nepenthes. The probability is greatly increased when consideration is given to the extraordinary development of medical science and practice in ancient Egypt. The prophet Jeremiah celebrates it. Gladstone, indeed, thinks it probable that to their knowledge of the properties of opium the Egyptian physicians owed their success and reputation. On two occasions mentioned by Herodotus, physicians were summoned from Egypt by Persian Kings, and we know from Pliny that post mortem examinations were performed in order to gain light upon the nature of diseases. And Pliny may be believed when he states anything in favour of physicians, for his publicly expressed conviction was that the impunity accorded to doctors' murders was a disgrace to the commonwealth.

In all likelihood, then, the valley of the Nile produced the first cake of opium. Those who are painfully convinced of the unalloyed mischief of opium consumption, will not be much soothed by the discovery that the practice they deplore is as old as civilisation. But the fact that, as far back as we can go in history or legend, we still find evidence of men's craving for opium or for something of similar properties, should serve to moderate the vindictiveness of critics, from many of whose fantastic diatribes one might gather that with the export of opium from India there arose a new and horrible species of crime for whose existence nowadays the Indian Government is directly responsible.

THE PAST SUMMER.

THE late extraordinary summer in the northern hemisphere will probably tend to disabuse the minds of meteorologists of one or two erroneous conclusions. Hitherto it has been too much the custom to attribute to local circumstances variations in the annual mean temperature, but the multiplication of meteorological observations proves that local variations as a general rule are only developments of phenomena ruling over large areas. More especially was this the case during the last summer, when complaints of excessive heat came not only from China but from India, from North America, and from Europe as far north as the British Isles. From its local position, the phenomena of abnormal seasons can be studied better in China than in most other countries. It lies between the torrid and the northern portion of the temperate zones; and the monsoons which have full sway in its southern districts lose their force and direction as we proceed North, until in the northern provinces their existence can scarcely be traced. No important mountain chains cross China from East to West to define the northern limits of the southern monsoon, and hence in the rainy belt which accompanies its extreme North, we have in fact a most sensitive natural thermometer. On more than one occasion we have shown how intimately the position of this rainy belt showed the mean summer temperature, and the summer just past, abnormal in many ways, was no exception to the rule. During the cold summer of 1877, the interior of Asia seemed to have been so slightly warmed that even within the tropics the southwest monsoon blew feebly and fitfully; at Shanghai it might be said we had no monsoon at all, northerly winds rather than southern being the rule. We were in fact on the very verge of the moisture-bearing southern currents, and in consequence we were drenched with rain for nearly nine months. The very same causes which produced at Shanghai an excessively wet season, in the North of China had the opposite effects; the northern

and western winds which prevailed in Shansi and the adjacent provinces bore with them no moisture to refresh the thirsty soil, and a terrible famine was the result. During the past summer the conditions have been in great measure changed. A hot summer prevailed over the continent; the interior has become heated, and the southerly monsoon has blown in our latitudes with considerable force and regularity. The moisture of the tropics has been carried over our heads without deposition, but on the other hand the northern provinces have been drenched, and the drought of 1877 has been immediately succeeded by the floods of 1878. It was in some respects a fortunate circumstance that the ground had been desiccated to a considerable depth, as otherwise the floods of last summer would probably have proved as disastrous as the drought of the antecedent year. Even as it is, the latest accounts from Shansi describe the people as suffering from dysenteries and other diseases induced by the excessive moisture of the weather and the impossibility of obtaining properly ripened grain. The nearest year with which we can compare 1878 is 1871; and in one or two instances the similarity stands strongly out. September 1871 was marked by a wave of heat and strong southerly winds. The consequence was that a line of floods extended during that month from Shantung in the East certainly to Szechuen, and we know not how much further, in the West. The monsoon finally broke in the forenoon of the 22nd September, when, in two hours, Shanghai passed from ultra-tropical heat to the ordinary mild weather of a Kiangsu autumn. In 1878 the summer commenced unusually early, no break in the intensity of the heat occurring between the 1st July and the 28th August. About the latter date the southerly monsoon showed some signs of breaking up, but after a few days set in again with full force. From the 18th to the 21st of September, the atmospheric disturbance was so great that a typhoon, a thing of rare occurrence so far north, was the result. After the typhoon the heat actually increased to the ordinary temperature of July. On Friday, the 27th, a struggle for the mastery took place, and for a few hours a reduction in the temperature, accompanied by thunder and rain, took place, to be succeeded, however, by a still greater intensity of heat. Finally, on the morning of the 5th October, the monsoon broke up, the transition at about half-past three in the morning being as sudden as in 1871. So slow are the means of communication in China, that we have scarcely heard of the effects in the North of the great heat wave of September 1878. Isolated accounts point to excessive floods, and we shall probably hear eventually that the entire of the North of China suffered as in 1871 from the unduly prolonged monsoon.

THE LATE MISS FAY.

WE publish elsewhere a short paragraph calling attention to the notice in our obituary column of the death of Miss Fay. It is not often that we extend to any length the notices of those residents who pass away from amongst us, because there is an ever present danger of saying perhaps only a few words too much, and thereby touching private sensibilities, with good intention but with a painful effect. In the case before us, however, we have no reason to fear that we shall say anything that will jar on the feelings of kindred, for Miss Fay had long outlived the early family ties and was wholly devoted to her missionary duties. Her home and her work were in China, and there are, we are assured, no surviving friends who would not consider that we neglected a duty if we merely recorded her death in a single frigid line. Miss Fay's first work in China was the superintendence of a school for teaching English to China boys, in 1851. She toiled at this employment for ten years; and, indeed, with two intermissions, one when she visited Europe in 1863-4, and the other when she was compelled to go to America to recruit exhausted health; school teaching was the work of her life. The marked kindness and appreciation which she received during her visit to the United States seemed to have a beneficial effect, and she returned with fresh energy; but the work she had done in earlier times had told upon her, and during recent years she has been a shadow of her former energetic self. The life of a schoolmistress has not much incident, but those who had opportunities of seeing Miss Fay with her pupils, and who were able to test their acquirements, are unanimous in praising her work, which was conscientious and devoted in an eminent degree.

Her strong point was her thorough knowledge of the Chinese Classics, and the power she possessed of putting herself as it were into the Chinese mind, and feeling *with* and appealing to those whom she was instructing. She was careful to follow out all the threads of thought that could possibly afford a clue which once grasped might help to introduce a fact of Western history or a doctrine of the Christian religion into the intricate chambers of the native mind. This was the special gift with which she was endowed, and which she had cultivated with the most painstaking diligence. The Chinese held her in great respect, as she presented to them a type of character which they are not often permitted to see in the Missionary ranks, viz., the character of a woman learned in the lore which seems to them above all price. It is clear that this scholarship was a "coign of vantage" which enabled Miss Fay to introduce the doctrines of the Cross with singular and admirable effect.

In addition to her Chinese studies, Miss Fay had large stores of erudition. Like George Herbert's Country Parson

she valued all "accessory knowledges," and it was impossible to be in her company without gaining a striking fact, or a happy suggestion, an apt illustration, or a quotation from some theologian, poet, or philosopher, which helped the subject under discussion. Her acquaintance with the Greek and Latin Classics, with the masterpieces of French oratory, notably Bossuet and Massillon, and with the Italian poets, specially Dante, was rare and critical. Her relaxation was the study of authors whose names were scarcely known to many of her colleagues, and she devoted herself with as much heartiness to the mastery of the books she read in her well earned and scanty leisure as to her Chinese work. It was, in fact, impossible for Miss Fay to do anything in a slovenly languid way. It is obvious that we can only speak in these columns of the side of Miss Fay's life which was presented to those who knew her as a teacher and a friend. The inner and more sacred portions of it, which were passed in devotion as simple as it was earnest and assiduous, we can only refer to and pass on. The Missionary cause has undoubtedly lost a useful servant, and those who are left behind would do well to follow as carefully as they can the example set them by the good woman whose twenty-eight years' toil has just ended. It was said of a British officer in India, "If all the English were like Macleod, India would be Christian," and we may say that "if all the Missionaries were like the late Lydia Fay, all the foreign residents would be far more zealously on the side of Christ than they are now."

BOOKS IN CHINA.

THE Chinese not only look down on foreigners as *moderns* and *parvenus*, but they also entertain a low opinion of Western nations owing to their supposed inattention to literature. It is only fair and just to admit that if we look with native eyes at the foreigners who come to China, there is some reason for this impression. The character in which the foreigner sees fit to present himself to the Chinaman is certainly not that of a student. He appears as the representative of one of the pushing practical nations, mighty in the arts of war, clever at devising appliances by which long distances are rapidly passed and news transmitted with marvellous speed, but he does not assume the part of the bookman. He is great in war, active in practical science, and indefatigable in commerce; but he does not seem to care much for reading, and for those calm pursuits of the scholar which the Chinaman ranks so high in his estimation. The few literary men who appear on the scene are officials or missionaries, and as they are not so wealthy and pretentious as the practical classes, the Chinaman naturally imagines that we put them in a low

place in our own social system, and despises us accordingly. We cannot wonder that this is the case, nor must we blame the Chinaman for regarding a Treaty port as a small picture of an English or continental city. Really it is nothing of the kind. And this the native who goes home very soon finds out. When once he sets foot in Europe he perceives the immense influence of literature. He walks through the spacious libraries and universities, and it suddenly dawns on his mind that he saw in Shanghai or Hankow a very faint, and, indeed, a very inaccurate, representation of civilized Western life. We can conceive nothing so likely to impress a Chinaman as the vast collections of books which are accumulated in such institutions as the British Museum and the Bodleian. The wealthy foundations dedicated to learning, and the number and splendour of the schools and colleges, will exhibit the European in a far more favourable light than that in which he is presented when he is seen in his naval and mercantile aspect. We augur hopefully in this respect of the next Ambassador to England. The son of Tseng-kwo-fan is remarkable for his intelligent appreciation of Western civilization, and when he discovers that we have a vast and comprehensive literature, as well as a certain skill in the practical arts and sciences, that appreciation will increase and warm into regard. A certain respect may be extorted from a semi-civilized nation by pressure and force. There are, of course, times when the argument of the ironclad is the only one which will be listened to with any attention, but there is an after-time, when, if respect is to be gained, it must be gained by the discovery that those who have succeeded in creating fear have some of the qualities which command esteem. The cord which will compel this feeling must have a strand of sympathy in it, and literature, we conceive, will be the cord which will at last unite the Chinaman and the European. The expeditionary force which took Peking damaged its *prestige*, as all the world knows, by the burning of the Summer Palace, and by that act we earned the name of barbarians in China and vandals in our own country; and barbarians we shall be in the eyes of the Chinese until we show them the contrary. We do not appear to advantage out here, but when the Chinese go home and see that we are something besides traders, when they see our academic life, with all its honourable results, our faces will be whitened in the eyes of the black-haired race. To pass from larger considerations to smaller ones. We have to note a change for the better in Shanghai in the matter of reading. There is a marked improvement in the selection of the books which we find now accessible to the residents, and a large increase in the number of the volumes in circulation. We most of us have a distinct and

perhaps humiliating recollection of the sales by auction ten or fifteen years ago, when a man's effects exhibited only too plainly the dearth of intellectual pursuits. Anecdotes are rife of the sales of the effects of deceased gentlemen, where literature was represented by "Cavendish on Whist" and "Francatelli's Cookery Book." Now there are several large and well-furnished libraries in the Settlement. There is a good and liberally supplied Book Club, and a shelf with a small but well-chosen collection of English classics is a feature in every room. The stores are constantly getting out standard works, and these are briskly sold and replaced by fresh volumes. This is a good sign of the times.

Outports.

NEUCHWANG.

A Naval Court was held on the 4th inst. at H.B.M.'s Consulate, to enquire into the circumstances attending the grounding of the British brigantine. On *Flying Scud* on the west bank of the river Liaou, on the 29th Sept. The *Flying Scud* was a vessel of 344 tons, and was commanded by Capt. Caster. It may be gathered, from the evidence, that on the 28th Sept. the vessel passed the Lightship about 5 p.m., inward bound, from Nagasaki, and anchored in 4½ fathoms near the Outer Buoy, no pilots being visible. During the night a very strong gale arose from the S.W., and the sea became very angry. Early on the morning of 29th Sept., the pilot boat *Sam Slick* passed without noticing the jack of the *Flying Scud*. The *Naomi* pilot cutter, soon after put Mr. Richards on board, and efforts were made to save the vessel, but they proved fruitless. The pilot pointed out that it would be most dangerous to hold on where they were, and so when he considered there was sufficient water on the bar, the sails were set and the anchor was slipped. Unfortunately, the sailing gear gave way; there was little or no sea room, and the vessel, being unmanageable, drifted on the west bank and went badly ashore. The second anchor was let go in the hope of the weather moderating. Meanwhile such damage was done that the *Flying Scud* filled, and all chance of getting out of the difficulty was lost.

In accordance with the opinion of the Court, the Admiralty sailing directions of 1874 should be made obsolete as soon as possible, and should be replaced by the "Instructions for entering the Liaou River."

The finding of the Court was as follows:—The Court acquits the master of the *Flying Scud* of carelessness or want of skill in the navigation of the vessel. He appears to have followed the sailing directions published by the British Admiralty in 1874, which points out an anchorage about where the pilot boarded him. The *Flying Scud* was thus placed in a position from which, when bad weather came on, it was not possible to extricate her, but for this the directions, and not the master, are to be blamed. The Court considers that Pilot Richards performed his duties with energy and courage; but it directs the master of the *Flying Scud* to bring the conduct of those on board the pilot boat *Sam Slick* to the notice of the proper authorities. The Court returns the master's certificate.

THOS. ADKINS,
H.B.M.'s Consul.
HENRY E. BUSH,
Merchant.

JAMES GBANGE,
Master, Brit. Bk. "Doon."

The wreck and cargo of the *Flying Scud* were sold at auction on the 1st inst., for Tls. 1,055.

WUHU.

A correspondent writes that the weather at Wuhu on the first few days of this month was frightfully hot. On the 2nd and 3rd instant, the thermometer rose to 93° and 95°, unexampled heat for the time of year. Since the 5th instant, a cold wind and drizzling rain have prevailed, the thermometer averaging 60°.—There have been many cases of upsets on the river from rough weather reported lately—passengers landing from the steamers chiefly. At one place, forty persons are said to have been drowned out of a landing boat. A limit should be put to the number carried by each boat.—Rain fell heavily on the 9th and 10th instant.

NINGPO.

A rumour is current to-day, that an understanding has been come to on the Funghwa *lekin* station question. All the old stations are to be re-established, and taxes levied on the basis of the arrangement come to some ten years ago. One Fang, the weiyuan in charge of the Hao Ho barrier at Si-wu, where the disturbances originated, is to be sacrificed, as a return for the acceptance of this settlement on the part of the Funghwa men.

10th Oct.

FOOCHOW.

A correspondent, writing on the 8th instant, says there is not much news at this port. It was feared there was going to be a disturbance on the 4th instant, at Wu-shih-shan; but the day passed off quietly, the native officials taking good care to have a number of soldiers, or, better speaking, a mob of ruffians armed, at that place—they could have easily done the same thing on the 30th August last, and prevented the row and destruction that then took place.

We have quite a fleet of gunvessels here now. At Nantai are the Chinese *Chien-heng* and *Fuh-sheng*, and the English *Swinger*. At Pagoda anchorage are the American corvette *Alert* and the French corvette *Cosmos*. A German gunvessel is also expected—so you see we are well protected just now, but it is not needed, as the trouble is, I fancy, now over.

The *Herald* believes it is a fact that the Chinese authorities have not up to the present date (3rd October) made a single arrest on account of the Wu-shih-shan riot and incendiarism. The latter crime is a capital offence under Chinese law; it is certainly viewed universally as a grave crime against society, while it is everywhere punished with severity. The failure of the Chinese authorities to put the law in force in this instance is, says the *Herald*, simply scandalous, and their misconduct should be made generally known. The incendiary Ling is still at large—living in the Taw Shan Kwan Temple, adjoining the Church Mission premises at Wu-shih-shan; he makes no attempt at concealment, and his party openly boast that they intend to drive every foreigner out of the city, and that the mandarins cannot or will not prevent them from accomplishing their design. In connection with the Wu-shih-shan affair, the *Herald* understands that an English gentleman, at present on a visit to Foochow, has endeavoured to bring about a private settlement between the Provincial Government and the Church Missionary Society; but, that, independently of other reasons, the latter have very properly declined to entertain any direct proposals from the native authorities,—the matter being in the hands of H.M.'s Consul. It is to be regretted that the native officials, who are greatly to blame in this business, should, in their discreditable endeavours to shirk a manifest public duty and to evade the clear demands of justice, receive any

kind of assistance or advice from Europeans not occupying responsible posts under the Chinese Government.—The memorial to Lord Salisbury on the subject of the above outrage has been forwarded to H.M.'s Consul, for transmission to his Lordship.

The *Herald* is glad to learn that the degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred upon the Rev. S. L. Baldwin, of Foochow, by the Wesleyan University of Middletown, Connecticut, U.S.A.—The Provincial Government it is said are negotiating the purchase of a new steam-dredge, of greater power than the one at present in use.

In its Commercial Summary of the 3rd Oct., the latest date to hand, the *Herald* says a smaller amount of business in tea at unchanged rates, is reported for the week ending the 2nd. Congou.—Operations in low to ordinary common descriptions, though less active, are of a sufficiently encouraging character to strengthen the generally entertained belief that arrivals of these kinds to the end of the current season will be fully equal to the exigencies of the European markets. Meanwhile, the Chinese dealers shew no apparent inclination to abandon their traditional policy of regulating supplies. Souchong.—Settlements of about 1,300 chests have been declared, at Tls. 13½ a 25 per picul (short.)

Settlements from 26th Sept. to 2nd Oct. :—

		Tls.	per picul,
Congou	12,678 chests.	5½ a 23	(short.)
Souchong ...	1,278 "	13½ a 25	"
Oolong	349½ "	15 a 18	"
Scented Tea	1,071 boxes.	15 a 22	"
Total Arrivals.			
Total Settlements.			
Congou	719,776	693,640	26,136 chests.
Souchong	42,900	36,555	6,345 "
Oolong	34,000	33,756	244 ½ chts.
Flowerly Pekoe	5,200	5,108	92 chests.
Scented Tea ...	84,000	81,805	2,195 boxes.

Freight.—To London, per steamer, 20s. to 25s. per ton of 40 cubic feet; per sailing ship, 30s. per ton of 50 cubic feet. To New York, per steamer, 45s. per ton of 40 cubic feet; per sailing vessel, via Amoy, 30s. per ton of 40 cubic feet. Vessels loading, for London, steamship *Speke Hall* (under despatch), sailing vessel *Fantasia*. Falmouth, for orders, sailing vessel *Walter Siegfried*. Vessels expected to load, for London, steamships *Priam* and *Syria*. For New York, steamship *Gleneagles*.

FORMOSA.

The *Foochow Herald* says the provincial authorities are making active preparations for another campaign against the aborigines of Formosa. During the past week reinforcements have been despatched to Taiwanfu, and a strenuous effort is to be made to restore order in the disturbed districts.

HONGKONG.

The *Daily Press* says the repulse of last week has not apparently damped the ardour of the thieves. Another armed attack was made early on the 4th, this time upon the house of Mr. G. Murray Bain, No. 10, Seymour Terrace. It appears that about two o'clock a Sikh constable, walking along the terrace near Mr. Bain's house, turned on his bull's eye to see if all was right, and immediately he received a prod with a spear on the left arm. He saw a number of men, one of whom, the man who had stabbed him, was only a few yards in front. The constable fired at this man, but missed him, and the thieves began to make off, but before doing so fired at the constable with a horse pistol, or some weapon of the kind, and the constable also fired again. The policeman then blew his whistle and several European and other constables appeared on the scene with Captain Superintendent Deane and Chief Inspector Grey. A careful search was made, but no trace of the thieves was found beyond a box of

lucifer matches and a couple of bullets which they had dropped. Later in the morning a couple of bamboo spears similar to those used in the Wing Lok Street affray and a box of percussion caps were found in Mr. Edmund Sharp's garden. The thieves no doubt had taken their flight in that direction, westward along Robinson-road, and thrown their weapons away as they ran. Mr. Bain was on the alert with his revolver after the alarm was given, but never got a shot at the designers on his property. This is the third time his house has been the object of midnight visits within the last five months, and on the last occasion the thieves succeeded in carrying off property to the value of over \$100. The Sikh constable is now in hospital suffering from a fresh wound in the arm.—Other robberies are also reported.—H.M.'s ship *Audacious* arrived on the 3rd, from Nagasaki.—The P. and O. Company's godown was found to be on fire on the night of the 3rd instant, and the roof fell before the flames were extinguished, notwithstanding that the brigades turned out with commendable promptitude. The damaged is roughly estimated at about \$6,000, and is equally divided between the Imperial and China offices.—The *Daily Press* is informed that Mr. Kwok Acheong's son is still being removed from place to place at Canton by the mandarins, and is subjected to great hardships, having the stone floor to sleep on, and no proper food to eat. No one is allowed to see him, and he is stated to be in very indifferent health.

STRAITS.

The *Singapore Daily Times* says an incident of a somewhat alarming character took place on Thursday night. It appears that the python (that, we believe, is the correct scientific name, boa constrictors being confined to South America), some 24 feet long by 11 inches in girth, which was caught alive by two Malays a short time ago and brought into town, and bought for and presented to the Museum, was placed in a rattan cage in the operating room of the Museum pending deliberations as to the most humane means of killing it, with a view to preserve its carcase intact for exhibition at the Museum. White, the Curator, however, deliberated, his or her snakeship contrived to escape during the night, not only from its rattan prison by an opening only 1½ inches in width, but from the room, where a man was sleeping at the time, and it has not since been seen or heard of. Traces of its trail were found in the Raffles School garden on Friday morning. No black or yellow babies have yet disappeared, but the denizens of populous Campong Glam must feel rather uncomfortable at the notion of a python 24 feet long prowling about in their midst. It is, however, more than probable it has found its way somehow instinctively to its native jungle.

HIOGO.

The *News* notes the closing, on the 1st instant, of the agency of the Netherlands Trading Society at Hiogo. Little surprise will be excited, as the intention to take this step had been announced long ago, but still it may be allowed to express a word of regret at the disappearance from the Hong List of one of the oldest and most respected firms.—There is a prospect of an excellent harvest in the neighbourhood of Hiogo. It was thought at one time that there would be an excess of rain, but the crops were never fuller of promise, and if this district may be taken as a sample, there will be a very fine harvest this year, notwithstanding local floods.—In Gifu, the rice crop is reported as being exceptionally good, some of the plants being stated to be seven feet high.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Gazette* says the Mikado is progressing on his tour through the provinces. A telegram has been received in Tokio, announcing that the Imperial party had arrived at Uwotsu, in the province of Echii.—The same paper says the recent appointment by His Majesty the Emperor of Inoué Bunda or Kaoru to the important post of Minister of Public Works, vacated by H.E. Ito Hirobumi, who succeeded Okubo Toshimichi as Minister for the Home Department, is a subject of grave discussion in influential Japanese circles. The *Gazette* cannot, of course, say what view is taken of the appointment to a high ministerial post of a person who has appeared in the Courts of Japan, upon one occasion at least, as an offender against the penal laws, but rumours are afloat to the effect that the return of the Emperor from his northern visit will be the signal for a thorough reform at the administration.—The commemorative festival in honour of the soldiers killed in last year's rebellion has been celebrated with much enthusiasm, the festival cars, owned by the inhabitants of *Honcho-dori*, being drawn through the streets of the native town in the presence of large crowds of sight-seers. At night there were illuminations, including that of the monument on Iseyama, and some interesting devices in fireworks were displayed at Uchitamachi.—Following the decision of the U.S. Consul-General to deliver up Thomas Glass to the Japanese authorities, a period of fifteen days' grace was allowed him by the latter in which to leave the country. As he did not do so, he has now been arrested and is kept in custody at Sakai-cho police-station, pending further action of the authorities.—Early on the morning of the 20th ult., there was a slight shock of earthquake felt in Yokohama.

In *Nippon Notes*, the *Gazette* translates from the *Nogio Zashi* that an American gentleman—name not mentioned—has been engaged for some time past in surveying the island of Yezo, as well as in making geological investigations. This gentleman is said to report that there are 7,000 square miles of ground in Yezo fit for agricultural purposes, 6,000 square miles suitable for pasture, 5,000 miles of forests, and 9,000 miles of volcanic mountains and mineral country. If this is true it would seem as if the Government are making efforts to induce emigration to this thinly populated part of the Japanese Empire.—From the 20th June to the 20th September, 9,826 piculs of new silk arrived at Yokohama. Out of these, 2,271 bales, each containing 80 catties, have been exported to France; 687 bales to America; and 675 to England; in all, 3,633 bales, or 5,284 Japanese bales of 55 catties each, 3,542 Japanese bales still remain in the hands of Japanese silk dealers.—In reference to the rewards to be given to soldiers, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, we have published an announcement made by General Nodzu to all the men under his command. It is now said that, according to the rules which have hitherto been in force, no reward was bestowed upon those who had appeared on the battlefield less than twenty times, but it has been altered so far that any man who has appeared in the field nine times will be rewarded.—530 cases of cannon and ammunition, ordered from France by the Naval Department, were brought to Japan by the French mail steamer *Tanais*, which arrived at Yokohama on the 25th Sept.—A recent visitor to Hakone reports that the rainstorms there have been excessive, and that the large boulders in the Tokaido in that district have been washed out of the road.

The *Herald* notes the arrival at Yokohama of the Russian corvette *Boyan*, carrying the flag of Admiral Baron Stakleberg, from Vladivostok.—The *Hochi Shinbun* says when the Japanese man-of-war *Seiki Kan* passed through the tropics, the crew suffered severely from the heat, and the

stokers became unable to work, in consequence of which Indians were hired, who did their work to satisfaction.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

September 6th.—(1) A decree appointing Lo Ta-ch'un 羅大春 to the post of Commander-in-chief in Hunan.

(2) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Li Feng-kang, a native of the Chao-yang district in Yeh-hoh, who complains that his brother has been the victim of the revenge of a gang of desperadoes who suspected him of having induced the widow of a man murdered by them to charge them with the crime. They accordingly broke into his brother's house in broad daylight and killed him, his two sons, his grandson and four servants, having on a previous occasion during his brother's absence plundered the house of everything they could find and wounded his wife and daughters. Three years have elapsed since this outrage was perpetrated, but no steps have yet been taken to bring the guilty parties to justice.

(3) The Court of Censors bring to His Majesty's notice the serious delays that now occur in the hearing of cases preferred in provincial Courts, and the habitual neglect of the local authorities to conduct the enquiries in person, Jeh-hoh and the three Manchurian provinces being particularly to blame in this respect. Although the petitions presented may not necessarily be true in every particular, they are all based upon fact, and have had something to call them forth. The law defines certain limits of time for the investigation of cases of homicide, and prompt inspection of the body, with the wounds that caused decease, is one of the most important essentials in cases of the kind. In spite of this it is sometimes delayed for several months, and in some instances even for years, by which time the guilty parties have in the generality of cases made their escape to some distant place, and the body of their victim has been devoured by animals, so that all traces of the cause of death are obliterated and only an imperfect skeleton is left. Both parties adhere to their version of the story, and underlings reap a harvest between them by the practice of abuses too numerous to mention. Under such circumstances the decisions come to cannot but be formed on insufficient bases, and the "steaming process" by which they arrive at a diagnosis of the cause of death is a painful and a deplorable one. Minor and petty officials are not allowed by law to take evidence or depositions without special authority to do so, and how much less should they be allowed so lightly to determine questions affecting the life of the subject? And yet men of this class are entrusted with these matters, and the friends of the responsible officer are allowed to undertake his duties for him. How can any positive assurance be given that these individuals, who are exercising functions that do not belong to them, will be universally endowed with sufficient self-respect? and under such circumstances it becomes apparent that rampant abuse must in many instances prevail. It is not thus that proper security for life is to be afforded, and it consequently becomes the duty of memorialists to beg His Majesty to direct the Board of Punishments and provincial officials to conduct investigations and enquiries into cases of homicide in the manner that is laid down by law, and to establish the fact that failure to give prompt notice of a case of homicide within a reasonable time will be visited upon the *ti-pao* or other responsible person, and that delay in the investigation of the circumstances of such outrages, or enquiry by deputy will meet with condign punishment. (See Decree of 28th Aug.)

September 7th.—(1) A decree directing the Board of War and the particular Banner concerned to make enquiries for the surviving relatives of Ch'ang Ching and Ming Sü, late Military Governors of Ili, whose remains, with those of the latter's wife, have been recovered by Tso Tsung-t'ang and sent by him under charge of an officer to Peking for interment. The relatives will be called upon to afford them proper burial, that loyal spirits may find rest.

(2) A decree deputed an officer to ascertain the nature of certain repairs to the Mausoleum of the Emperor Tao Kwang, and to the offices of the Control Department of the Imperial household, which the latter office declare to be necessary.

(3) Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, and his colleagues, memorialise with regard to the conditions of taxation in the province of Kirin. They have frequently reported the steps they have taken for the improvement of the revenue of this province, and they have now to submit certain further suggestions for His Majesty's sanction and approval. The Imperial High Commissioner Tsao Pao, when he visited Manchuria, raised the taxation in the sub-prefectures of Kirin's Shang Ch'un and Petuné to ten times its former amount; but the taxation in the other towns was left untouched, no scrutiny having been made. On the arrival of memorialist, Ming An, at his present post, he made it his constant duty to enquire into the details of the levy of the taxes in the above-mentioned towns in order to discover, if possible, whether the officers entrusted with this levy were not guilty of reservation in the report of the amounts collected. Having reason to suspect their integrity in the collection of certain items, application was made for permission to place the collection of dues upon wine, timber, etc., in Kirin under the control of officers appointed by the Governor, the collectors in the other towns being at the same time cautioned against fraud and dishonesty. As, however, the taxes collected on land and miscellaneous articles at Ningutá, Sansing, Alchuka, and other smaller places were in excess of the amount at which they were severally assessed, and there was reason to believe that the officers engaged in their collection were appropriating the surplus to their own use, certain officers were sent to different places to ascertain the real facts of the case. They found that the collection during the past few years had, in effect, exceeded the assessed amount, a fact that was freely admitted by the collectors themselves, who explained that this surplus had not been appropriated by them but had been devoted to the defraying of office expenses of various kinds for which no grant was allowed them. They furnished accounts of the manner in which this money was expended, and an inspection of their registers, which in some instances were compared with the books of certain shops, bore out the statements that they made. The memorialists then proceed to state that the population of this region has much increased of late years, and has caused a corresponding increase in the tax receipts, side by side with which the machinery for its collection has gradually grown and developed. No grants being allowed for the current working expenses of the Lieutenant-Governor's Yámens or those of their subordinates, the collectors were correct in their statement as to the application of the surplus raised to the support of these establishments. Memorialists therefore hope that His Majesty will be pleased to forego the recovery of these amounts from the officers who have expended them without authority, and they will cause it to be understood that henceforward all taxes received must be sent forward, commencing with the present year, at the close of which certain deductions will be allowed for office expenditure, and the balance will form the basis of assessment for future years, from which no abatement will be permitted.

(4) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang, who represents that the officers appointed to superintend the working and management of the China Merchants' Company, being unable, from the varied nature of their occupations and duties, to reside permanently in the Shanghai office, which from its central position and commercial importance requires particularly careful supervision, only one officer, the Taotai Sü Jun is at present resident in Shanghai. Although nothing has gone wrong under his administration, the responsibilities of the office are heavy, and numerous collateral interests are involved, which render it important that he should be aided in the management by an intelligent officer of high standing and experience. The memorialist accordingly begs to recommend Yeh T'ing-ch'un 葉廷春, expectant Taotai in Kiangsu, who has had much experience, in the several capacities of superintendent of defence works at Sungkiang, Magistrate at Shanghai, superintendent of grain transport, etc., in the conduct of official business. He is well fitted to undertake the general management of the interests of the Company with T'ang T'ing-ch'ü (Tong King-sing) and Sü Jun, and will be sure to promote economy where compatible with profit, and to give honest attention to the interests of the Company.—Rescript: Noted.

September 8th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Court of Censors who report that a petition has been lodged with them by one Sü Kün-yung, formerly Magistrate of the Fêng-tu district of Szech'wan, who was dismissed some years ago on a charge of having basely deserted his post in a time of danger. The waters of the river had flooded the city, and instead of endeavouring to rescue life, he was said to have been the first to procure a boat and seek safety in flight. He now denies this charge, which he declares was fabricated by a number of gentry in his district who bore a grudge against him, and had powerful friends in the Governor's Yámén. The case is referred to Ting Pao-ch'eng, who, as the case occurred previous to his incumbency, will be in a position to view the matter from an impartial standpoint and give it a fair and unbiased hearing.

(2) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang requesting the adoption of certain modifications in the present system of applying for rewards to contributors at the Shansi and Honan famine agencies. The nature of the changes proposed are summarised in a decree of the 24th August.

(3) The same officer refers His Majesty to an application lately made by him for permission to obtain three thousand brood mares from the Governor of Ch'ahar, to be lent to the famine sufferers in Ho-kien and other prefectures in Chihli, for ploughing purposes, their own animals having long ago all died or been sold out. The Governor of Ch'ahar has now given orders for them to be sent forward, and memorialist has deputed officers to meet the flock with forage and bring them on, directions having been at the same time given for certain officers to consider the best plan of apportioning the animals amongst the farmers. It has been found, however, that the number now on their way will not be sufficient to meet the demand, and hearing that the Manchu and Mongolian stock breeders in the neighbourhood of Kalgan were noted for their liberality and generosity, memorialist sent a district Magistrate among them to solicit contributions of cattle. Mu T'u-shan, Governor of Ch'ahar, generously identified himself with the scheme, and the result has been most successful, over 1,600 head of cattle having already been contributed, with every prospect of the number being shortly doubled. The animals will be sent forward in instalments, and distributed as may be found necessary. The service rendered by these people of

Ch'ahar is by no means small. It has hitherto been the practice in computing values with a view to the bestowal of rewards for contributions of animals offered by them, to reckon the value of a camel at Tls. 30, and that of a horse at Tls. 13, but as the recent bad harvests have raised the price of forage, and, consequently, of stock, the memorialist now proposes to reckon the value of cattle at Tls. 14 per head, and he will shortly submit a list of names for the bestowal of honours for contributions reckoned on this basis.

(4) The same memorialist sends a return of the duties collected at the native Custom House at Tientsin during the past year by Ting Show-ch'ang, Customs Taotai. The annual amount at which this office is assessed is distributed as follows:—

Ch'eng-ngo, or regular assessment	Tls. 40,464
Freight on copper (?)	7,693
Office expenses and surplus assessment	20,000
Maintenance money for Board	12,846
Contribution to Imperial Household	12,380
Total, Tls. 93,383	

The receipts for the present year are as follows:—

Collected by Li Chao-t'ang, late Taotai	Tls. 32,274
Collected by Ting Show-ch'ang, Acting Taotai	31,615
Add, deduction on duties allowed to junks with tribute grain	28,744
Total, Tls. 92,633	

which leaves a deficit of Tls. 750 on the contribution to the Imperial Household, which will be made good by the acting Taotai himself.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

September 9th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun returns thanks for a present of bird's nests.

(1) A decree consenting to an application from Tso Tsung-t'ang for the restoration to their original rank and titles of two officers who distinguished themselves in the siege and capture of Turfan. Their names had been accidentally omitted from the list of recommendations forwarded at the time, and for this act of carelessness Tso Tsung-t'ang is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a long memorial from Liu Kw'un-yi, Governor of the Two Kwang provinces, reporting the trial of one Wang San-yi and his accomplices, who succeeded by means of the most barefaced frauds in swindling a number of ignorant men and women out of more than \$2,000. The three leading spirits in this swindle were Wang San-yi, above mentioned, Hwang Tso-chow, and a woman called Wang, the latter of whom drove a trade as a sorceress in the Kieh-yang district in Kwangtung close to Ch'ao-chow Fu. Wang San-yi was born in Fukkien, but was kidnapped when he was ten years old, and brought to the Kieh-yang district, where his captors intended to sell him. So strumous and diseased was he, however, that no one would buy him, and his kidnappers then deserted him and left him to his own devices. The boy, having no home to go to, wandered about from village to village begging for scraps of food. In course of time he found his way to the woman Wang's establishment, and, as usual, asked for alms, and begged that she would take him in and give him sustenance. She accordingly took him into her *chui-t'ang*, as she called the place where she practised her sorceries and fortune-telling craft, and put him to domestic work, calling him her adopted son. Hwang Tso-chow used often to drop into the woman Wang's

place for a chat, and they were intimate acquaintances. In 1804, Wang San-yi, who was then 16 years of age, growing tired of his life of drudgery, thought he would like to go among the hills and be a hermit; so his foster mother asked Hwang to take him to a certain hill close by and instal him in a hut, which he did, and the two used to send Wang periodical contributions of food. He did not get enough to eat in this manner, so he resumed his calling of beggar amongst the neighbouring villages. He led this life for ten years, but finding begging a hard calling, he thought he would let his hair grow and become a Taoist priest, getting a living by asking alms for religious purposes. He requested Hwang to communicate his plan to the woman Wang, and beg her to make a suit of clothes for him such as are worn by Taoist priests, and when these had been given him he moved his quarters into a deserted temple upon another hill. One day in the month of January, 1877, Hwang was sitting chatting with Wang in his temple, who complained that he was tired of a calling that barely gave him food to eat, and imparted to Hwang a plan he had devised of passing himself off as a Wang Yeh, or Prince, and defrauding the simple villagers of money. He asked Hwang, in pursuance of this scheme, to tell the woman Wang to delude the women-folk who patronised her, into subscribing money for the construction of a boat into which she was to move with her paraphernalia, and from thence carry on a series of frauds. The woman entered into the scheme, and proceeded to raise money for the boat by declaring that a *P'u-sa* was coming down from Heaven in the following year, and that Ch'ao-chow was bound to suffer from a disastrous flood, so that it would be necessary to propitiate the deity by contributions of money from the faithful, which would be devoted to the construction of a boat in which escape could be made to the sea from the flood if necessary. The story found ready credence, and in the course of a few months more than \$2,000 were raised by the fraud. The boat was then begun, and just before its completion, stories were busily circulated by Hwang and the woman about a revelation in a dream of the coming visitation of some wondrous personage who would bring fortune to all who met him. The boat was finished in October, 1877, and called the *San-ki-ch'uan*, or "Vessel of the three wonders." The woman Wang then moved into it with her grand-daughter, taking with her her images and paraphernalia, which were duly arranged in the cabin, and men and women were invited to visit the vessel and propitiate the deity by offerings of money. Wang San-yi then prepared to enter upon the scene, and with this object provided himself with clothes and baggage, a forged Imperial decree, an official seal, red and blue buttons, and official hats. He bought at the same time some foreign shirtings, which he caused to be made into banners and servants' clothes, upon the former of which he caused dragons to be painted, and on the latter the characters *Wang Yung* or "Prince's Body-guard." These preparations were made at another place, to which he had moved, and in the month of February he came in state to the boat. The woman Wang then gave out privately that this was the illustrious personage whose advent was announced to her in a dream; that he was a prince who had been sent by the late Emperor on a private mission throughout the Empire to look out for all good doers, and that as soon as he returned to Peking he would shave his head and resume his rank. He was unfortunately in want of funds, and now was the time for those who wished to obtain something good to come forward with contributions. The story took, and contributions came in so fast that the conspirators had soon netted over \$1,800. In a few days the Magistrate heard of the im-

posture that was being practised, and had the trio and their accomplices arrested and brought to trial, when the above facts were elicited. Wang San-yi was found guilty of practising imposture and employing insignia of rank to which he was not entitled, and was accordingly decapitated under the standing Imperial death warrant. Hwang Tso-chow and the woman Wang were sentenced to decapitation after the usual term of incarceration, and the persons who played minor parts in the fraud were severally punished in proportion to the extent of their guilt.

Public Meetings.

THE NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY.

The first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held Monday at the Head-office, Hankow Road. Mr. E. H. Lavers, the Chairman of the Court of Directors, presided, and there were present—Messrs. J. Hart, A. G. Wood, H. Sutherland, D. Brand, C. L. Grant (Directors), W. H. Aretz, R. Mackenzie, H. J. Such, J. M. Young, P. G. Hübbe, E. G. Low, P. Maclean, W. White, H. Kirchhoff, J. Bradfield, R. H. Artindale, E. Taumeyer, J. Wilson, W. Howie, A. Westall, J. A. Taylor, E. P. Hague, J. Findlay, W. H. Macomber, J. Love, jun., T. Butler, J. J. Tucker, and H. S. Morris, Secretary.

The SECRETARY first read the notice convening the meeting, and then the minutes of the preliminary meeting held on the 22nd December, 1877, which were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN then said—This is the first meeting, gentlemen, of the Company under its reorganisation on a permanent basis, and the Directors have very great pleasure in presenting to you their Report and Accounts for the period ending the 30th June, 1878. You will observe from the Accounts that the premia collected for that period amounted to Tls. 650,597.13, out of which losses have been paid representing Tls. 157,899.79, leaving a balance of Tls. 446,369.62 to be carried forward from the Working Account to the credit of the Company. I think considering the depression of trade, which we have all more or less experienced, that the result may be considered very satisfactory. For the corresponding half-year of the old Company, we collected Tls. 503,246 against Tls. 650,597 for the present half-year, which shows a satisfactory increase, while the losses for the corresponding period of 1875 amounted to Tls. 169,812, as against Tls. 157,899 for the six months of the present year. It is too early yet to say anything with reference to building up a Reserve Fund. It is a subject which will be borne in mind by your Directors, and their deliberations on it will be laid before you at the meeting which will be held about March, next year. It is considered by the Directors very necessary to build up a Reserve Fund, as mentioned at the preliminary meeting held on the 22nd December last, and it is our aim to raise one as soon as possible. Before putting the first resolution to the meeting, asking you to pass the Report and Accounts, I shall be very happy to answer any questions you may wish to ask in reference to them.

Mr. E. P. HAGUE said he should like to know how it was that the expenses of the London branch were so large when compared with the head office.

The CHAIRMAN replied that it arose simply from additional expense, which it had been necessary to incur, on account of increased business.

Mr. HAGUE could not see how the London business could be so much larger than that of the Shanghai office to make the difference in the expenses of the two offices—

the expense of the London office was greater than that of the head office.

The CHAIRMAN said the business of the London office had increased from year to year, and it was only natural that the expenses of the office should increase accordingly.

Mr. HAGUE—But why should it be larger than the head office expenses?

The CHAIRMAN—Because they have a larger staff, the rent is exceedingly high, and they have various subscriptions to pay Lloyds, &c.

No other questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN then moved—

That the Directors' Report and Accounts for the half-year ending 30th June, 1878, be passed, as printed and presented to this meeting.

Mr. J. HART seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORT.

The Directors have now to bring before the Shareholders the first Report of the Company under its new constitution, and they are glad to be enabled to see that the allotment of Shares and collection of the Capital were completed in due season, the Company being now established on a permanent basis.

From the annexed accounts it will be noticed that the Premia earned up to 30th June last (Returns and Reinsurances having been deducted), amounted to Tls. 650,597.13, which is a satisfactory increase on the corresponding period of the term 1875 x 1877; the payments for Losses and Claims to same date represent Tls. 157,899.79, and the balance carried forward to the Credit of the Company is Tls. 446,369.62.

During the current half-year further settlements of Claims have been made amounting to Tls. 88,012, and the Net Premia entered in the Company's books to 30th September is Tls. 231,000.

Agencies.—An Agency has been opened at Haiphong under the charge of Messrs. Schriever & Co.; Messrs. Joseph Stilling & Co. and Messrs. Scott & Co. are appointed to represent the Company at Adelaide and Mauritius respectively; the Agency at Tamsui and Keelung has been transferred to Messrs. Tait & Co.

Directors.—Mr. M. S. Gubbay and Mr. F. H. Bell having retired from the Court of Directors, Mr. David Brand and Mr. Charles Lyall Grant have been elected to fill the vacancies, and their appointment is submitted for the confirmation of the Shareholders.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1878.

Dr.		Tsals.
To Capital paid up, 1,000 Shares at Tls. 600 per Share.....	600,000.00	
„ Balance of Working Account, transferred.....	446,369.62	
„ Bills Payable	446.42	
		Tsals..1,046,816.04
Cr.		Tsals.
By Cash on Current and Deposit Accounts in Banks at Shanghai	462,049.07	
„ Head Office Premia, outstanding	17,069.36	
„ London Branch, Balance in hand, as follows:—		
Securities and Investments £94,597 5 10		
Premia outstanding, Policy		
Stamps, etc.....	12,299 9 11	
Furniture in Office	554 0 0	
		£107,460 15 9
Less.—Reinsurances Due, Bills Payable, etc.....	1,350 3 7	
		As per Account Current...£106,130 12 2
Add.—Drafts remitted by Agents, Salvage Proceeds, etc.	1,282 4 2	
		£107,412 16 4
Less.—Drafts drawn by Agents	1,854 7 6	
		£105,558 8 10
		462,013.11
By Hongkong Branch—Balance in hand	\$116,538.17	
„ Yokohama Branch—Do.	\$12,699.58	87,628.63
„ Sundry Agents—Premia outstanding	\$61,671.23	9,440.69
Less.—Due to Sundrys....	89 50	
		61,581.79
„ North-China Insurance Company 1875 x 77	440.64	
„ Furniture at Head Office, Hongkong, and Yokohama	6,574.75	
		Tsals..1,046,816.04

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Taels.
To Net Premis, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	650,697.13
" Interest, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	14,139.86
" Commissions, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	1,187.26
" Transfer Fees, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	13.00
" Exchange Account, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	5,215.21
Taels	671,132.46

Cr.

By Preliminary Expenses for formation of Company	4,523.46
" Agency Commission, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	13,166.23
" Agency Charges, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	3,482.29
" Head Office Charges, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	15,675.06
" London Branch Charges, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	16,568.63
" Hongkong Branch Charges, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	8,476.41
" Yokohama Branch Charges, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	2,171.92
" Directors and Auditors Fees, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	2,820.00
" Losses and Claims paid, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	157,899.79
" Balance, from 1st January to 30th June, 1878	446,389.62

Or.

Memor. Taels.... 671,132.46
" Sh

Mr. A. G. Wood tht moved, and Mr. HUGH SUTHERLAND seconded—

That the election of Mr. David Brand, as a Director of this Company, be confirmed.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. HART next moved, and the CHAIRMAN seconded—

That the election of Mr. Charles Lyall Grant, as a Director of this Company, be confirmed.

The motion was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said—We have now finished the business of the first ordinary meeting of the new Company. There are shareholders in the old Company present, and I may mention that we are gradually getting the affairs in to a small compass, and our endeavour is to wind up the Company at the end of the year, and to pay whatever the final dividend may be, which is not likely to be very large.

A vote of thanks having been passed to the Chairman for presiding, the meeting dispersed.

CHINA FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

A meeting of the above Committee was held on the 9th inst. Present, W. S. Wetmore, Esq., in the chair; the Very Rev. Dean Butler, Revs. Dr. Nelson and W. Muirhead, Messrs. Wood, Hübbe, Lemarchand and Dr. Johnston. The Rev. Mr. Lees and Mr. Budd were also present, as distributors in the famine districts.

The Secretary read communications from H.E. the Viceroy of Chihli, and Mr. Forrest, Chairman of the Committee at Tientsin. The former expressed the great thankfulness of H.E. for the relief work that had been carried on in the North, which it was no small satisfaction to the Committee to be made aware of. It was resolved that the document should be printed for general information, as showing the high appreciation of the authorities of the labours of the Committee and the beneficence of foreigners at home and abroad in the time of distress.

An application was read from Mr. Ferguson, the Belgian Consul at Chefoo, containing a letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop at Tai-yuen foo, and craving assistance from the Committee in view of the necessities in Shansi. It was resolved to grant the sum of Tls. 7,000 for this purpose, which was to be paid to Rev. M. Aymeri for transmission to the North.

The condition and requirements of the field during the winter were made the subject of conversation, and Mr. Lees favoured the Committee with much and valuable information as the result of his own large experience, for which they were indebted to

him. It was also gratifying to receive from Mr. Budd a full and satisfactory explanation of the difficulties that had taken place at Ho-kien-foo, which removed all uncertainty from the minds of the Committee as to the use of the funds in that quarter.

WM. MUIRHEAD,
Hon. Secretary.

The following is the communication above referred to:—

A communication from H.E. the Viceroy of Chihli, Li, to R. J. FORREST, Esq., H.M. Consul, and Chairman of the Famine Relief Committee at Tientsin.

The Viceroy received yesterday Mr. Forrest's communication, of the contents of which he has informed himself.

The gentry and merchants of foreign countries have subscribed large sums of money for the relief of the sufferers in the two provinces of Chihli and Shansi, and it has been the means of saving not a few from starvation.

Mr. Forrest informs the Viceroy that there is still a balance of Taels, perhaps 40,000, in hand; and that he purposes in view of the coming winter to take measures for its distribution in those places which have been the scenes of the greatest suffering.

The Viceroy, when he considers the continual growth of these noble acts towards the poor and starving people, is at a loss for words to express his deep-felt gratitude. He would observe that he has distributed grain and money in Ho Chien-fu and the villages and hamlets in the neighbourhood which suffered, on several occasions; and Mr. Budd and his colleagues have also distributed relief where his (the Viceroy's) resources were insufficient. Thus the poor people have everywhere been the recipients of your truly great benevolence.

The Autumn crops, however, have turned out rich in the extreme and the price of grain has materially decreased, the means of support being no longer wanted.

The Viceroy has it in contemplation to memorialize the Throne concerning the taxes payable this autumn, and he will suggest that His Majesty may be pleased to remit the taxes for the half year, as a special account of benevolence and pity.

When the winter sets in, the people will all have more or less of a store of grain; and the Viceroy having taken these circumstances into consideration, it appears to him that there will be no need for further relief distribution, and he therefore deems it his duty to suggest (lit. pray) that the sum of Taels 40,000 be kept in hand until a plan be hit upon [for its ultimate distribution] elsewhere.

The gentry and merchants of your country have vied with each other in good works, and without reluctance have given their money in abundance, and have thus made their good feeling (towards the country) apparent. The Viceroy and the people of Chihli and Shansi are equally touched by your kindness, and the Viceroy now begs Mr. Forrest to be the means of expressing their heartfelt gratitude.

Amusements.

No. 2 COMPANY, S.V.C.

The "Monthly Challenge Cup" of this Company was competed for on Saturday last, but the scores were very low on account of the gale and rain. Still, shooting under such circumstances is good practice, and 16 out of 21 entrants made their appearance at the range.

The Cup was won by Private Bowman, with the score of 45; Sergt. Brown also made the same number, but had to allow 3 points, being a former winner. Appended are the eight best scores:—

	200 yds.	Total.	500 yds.	Total.	Grand Total.
Priv. Bowman	3545543-29	4220233-16	45		
Sergt. Brown	3434355-27	2022345-18	45		
Priv. Thirby	2344345-25	46332-17	42		
" S. Moutrie	2323433-20	2336234-22	42		
" Johnston	5332444-25	342052-16	41		
" Gridale	2225233-19	3233304-18	37		
" Pardon	2242445-23	4234000-13	36		
Sergt. Tucker	2242232-17	3022353-17	34		

THE FORTHCOMING REGATTA.

The forthcoming Regatta promises a more than ordinarily attractive programme, and from the evenness of the crews we may look forward to some very exciting finishes. The men-of-war's and merchant vessels' races are to be steered by members of the Shanghai Rowing Club, so that the fouling which has marred the interest in these races will be avoided. We hear also that in the event of there being more than three competitors for the "Ladies' Purse" it will be rowed in heats—a very wise proceeding, as there will be less likelihood of fouls occurring, which are almost unavoidable over the narrow and serpentine-like course when four or five eager aspirants for the Ladies' smiles (and their purse) are gathered together.

The chief interest is of course centered in the International Race for eight oars, and at the present time there is very little to choose between the crews.

The Scotch have the advantage in weight, but it is all aft, and although there is a very fair lift on the boat, there is also a perceptible hang when forward, before catching the water. There is one advantage gained by this, the men all catch the water at the same time, but it is spoiled by allowing the pace to go off the boat.

The English are a better crew individually than last year, the new blood infused being decidedly better than the absentees, and there is a marked improvement in the performance of some of the old hands compared to that exhibited during last year's practice; and yet with these advantages they do not compare favourably with last year's crew. There is a lack of swing, and the men do not sit up to their work. There is, however, a good grip of the water and a clear feather, and plenty of straight backs and the form generally is fair. The following will probably form the respective crews:—

ENGLISH.	SCOTCH.
Bow—Bois.	Bow—Buchanan, or,
2—Brown.	2—Shepherd.
3—Cheetham.	3—Dudgeon.
4—Innocent.	4—Johnston, (J. C.)
5—Burrows.	5—MacKenzie.
6—Soanes.	6—Johnston, Sir Wm.
7—Holliday.	7—Andrew.
Stroke—Wyatt.	Stroke—Glass.

The Senior Sculls will be contested by Glass and Wyatt, Andrew and Schultze. The last named brought a big reputation from Hongkong, where he carried everything before him. He sculls neatly but very short. He is greatly superior to the others in physique, and it will take a good man to beat him.

The only entries for the Ladies' Purse at present are Brown and Hall, but there will probably be two others.

The Club Eight are not yet filled. The Committee v. Club will probably be a very close race, as will be seen from the crews:—

COMMITTEE.	CLUB.
Bow—Bois	Bow—Cheetham
2—Huchting	2—Sir Wm. Johnston.
3—Andrew	3—Holliday
Stroke—Glass	Stroke—Wyatt

For the Double Sculls there are two pairs entered, Hall and Hunter and Wyatt and Andrew. The last named ought to win easily, but Hall and Hunter are remarkably well together and will make the race warm for a mile.

Miscellaneous.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CHINA
MERCHANTS' S. N. CO.

The following are the Report and Accounts of the C.M.S.N. Co. from the seventh moon of the 3rd year of Kuang-sü (9th August, 1877) to the end of the sixth moon of the 4th year (29th July, 1878):—

It is now five years since the Directors had the honour to receive instructions from the Earl Li to undertake the management of the Company, and at the end of each year a Report and Accounts have been carefully drawn up in the hope that the Shareholders would thus be induced to make themselves acquainted therewith. This year, reckoning from the seventh moon of last year, to the end of the sixth moon of the present, the total earnings of the Company as freight have been over Tls. 2,300,000, and from this it would appear that the greatest exertions to attract business have been made, and also a large balance of profit secured. Still, after deducting the expenses, and allowing for dividend on shares, and interest on borrowed money, loss was unavoidable. Some persons, in order to throw doubt on the management of the Company, will say that it has not been of the most satisfactory nature, but we have been so hampered that our task has been a difficult one.

In the first place we made no agreement with foreign merchants regarding the Ningpo and Yangtze trades immediately after our balance last year. By the time an agreement was come to, the year was ended, so that during half of the year under review we suffered considerable losses. Then there have been sources of loss which our Shareholders are ignorant of. In the beginning of the ninth moon of last year (October), we received commands to convey to Tientsin rice for the relief of Honan and Shansi. At that time, too, there was a rush on the part of our clients to ship all kinds of grain which had been subscribed by the public for the relief of the famine sufferers, and the Company's steamers were insufficient to meet the demand. To assist in the conveyance of the grain, foreign vessels had to be chartered, and the expense of hiring them was great. Besides, when the river was closed on the advance of the winter season, goods had to be landed at Taku, and the additional expenditure in cart and coolie hire necessitated by the transport to Tientsin was enormous. Nay more, in the item of Government grain-transport our supplementary allowance of rice, after measuring, was a small one, because the rice grains had been somewhat damped by the excessive rains. We had also to make money contributions out of our freight earnings to relief of distress in the three different provinces of Fokien, Shansi and Honan, and it is a principle of Natural Law that the more one pays to another the less one has one's self.

With regard to the insurance of our own ships by ourselves, it was agreed that, commencing from the first moon of this year, there should be annually laid aside Tls. 150,000 from the Insurance Fund, to be used for the repayment of the advances of the public monies made to the Company. After writing off in full the value of the *Hou-sang*, there remains of the insurance receipts for the year over Tls. 72,500, and this may stand for the Tls. 75,000 which ought to be laid aside for the first half-year under the above arrangement, as the difference between the two sums is but trifling. To provide funds for writing off the *Kiang-chang*, some other plan must be adopted. Of the five per cent. of the gross earnings devoted year after year to the expenses of the Head-Office and the Branch Offices, the surplus remaining after defraying all expenses, has now been passed into the General Account.

In accordance with the official memorial, a dividend of 5% will be paid to the Shareholders. The remaining 5% will be retained, and Shareholders invited to take additional stock for it. The accounts have been made up as before and submitted, according to law, to the Ministers Superintendent of Trade, and distributed to the branch offices at Tientsin, Hongkong, Foochow, Canton and Hankow. We beg the Shareholders in the vicinity of each of these places to inspect them, so that they may have a thorough insight into the Company's affairs.

Respectfully drawn up by the China Merchants' Company.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To Capital in Shares	751,000.000
" Capital in Public Monies	1,925,868.323
" Money belonging to Jên Ho and Fo Shih Insurance Cos.	418,450.011
" Ship's Insurance Fund	72,545.893
" Balances for special purposes	23,516.418
" Dividend on ordinary Stock (5 per cent.) ..	37,123.444
" Due Russell & Co.	460,000.000
" Sundry Deposits	1,472,403.607
	5,163,587.606

Less Pending Freight	290,558.341
Sundry Debtors	236,709.729
Cash in hand	39,393.081
Debit Balance	19,985.710
	586,649.861
	586,649.861
	Tls. 4,577,237.835

Cr.

Dr.	Tls.
By value 31 Steamers	2,858,613.053
" Hulks and small Steamers	257,270.890
" Godowns and Wharves at various ports ..	1,061,290.629
" Hemp Bags, Coals, and Material	278,608.262
" Dock and Foundry	151,454.996
	Tls. 4,577,237.835

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To Profit on running of Steamers	407,089.361
" Godown Rent, Cargo Boat Hire, Share of Rice, &c.	112,633.481
" Balances of Interest	226,716.640
" Cr. Balance from last year	11,394.428
	757,825.310

Less Loss on running of certain Steamers	40,857.352
Repairs to Fleet	137,922.033
Repairs to Godowns	24,196.827
Hire of Property, Charters, &c.	18,790.375
Shanghai and Tientsin Godown expenses	74,910.061
Miscellaneous expenses	7,336.502
Contribution to Grain Transport Temples	15,731.483
Contribution to Relief Fund of various provinces	18,504.459
	338,249.147
	338,249.147
	Tls. 419,576.163

Cr.

Dr.	Tls.
By Dividend on Capital	74,246.889
" Interest on Deposits	258,521.011
" Set aside as additional interest	106,796.974
	439,564.873
Less Debit Balance to next year's accounts ..	19,985.710
	Tls. 419,576.163

MEMORIAL ON THE CHU-SHAN AFFAIR.

(Translated for the N.-C. Herald.)

Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chékiang, kneeling presents a memorial setting forth how certain pirates and evil characters in a sea-girt island offered resistance to authority and murdered and did violence to officers and soldiers; how troops were despatched for their annihilation and capture; and how the chief conspirator and other ring-leaders were taken alive and severally dealt with [as will hereafter be shown.] He would humbly represent that Ta K'ü Shan, in the jurisdiction of Ting-hai, being formerly a waste and uninhabited territory, the occupation of which was not forbidden by explicit prohibition, it has now been taken possession of by numerous settlers and has thus, to all intents and purposes,

become civilised. On these grounds, Yang Ch'ang-kün, memorialist's predecessor, solicited permission from His Majesty to apply to this island the law with respect to reclaimed foreshore, and survey the land with a view to registering it for taxation, each holder being supplied with a proper title to his land. On the 13th November, 1875, the Inner Council had the honor to receive the following Imperial Decree:—"Yang Ch'ang-kün in a postscript memorial requests permission to survey the land on Ta K'ü Shan and register it for taxation," etc., etc. Again, in the month of July, 1876, Ch'en Nai-han, then acting sub-prefect of Ting-hai, reported that "in the matter of the organisation of taxation in Ta K'ü Shan, the inhabitants had, with one exception, gladly sent in returns of the land held by them, but that one Kin K'i-lan, an old offender, who had been guilty in the year 1870 of harbouring certain pirates and resisting their capture by Government troops, some of whom were wounded, had, with his sons, resisted [the innovation] from first to last, and refused to indicate his land for measurement. He had further inflamed the minds of the inhabitants against the measure, with a view to perpetrating any attempt to arrest him. The sub-Prefect had accordingly to request that troops might be sent to put this insubordination down." Upon this, the late Governor issued a proclamation exhorting the people in emphatic terms [to submit to authority], and at the same time directed the sub-Prefect in question to carry out the necessary arrangements in a fit and proper manner, adding that if Kin K'i-lan and those with him persisted in their resistance and disregard of authority, he would then detach troops to arrest him. When memorialist visited Ningpo last year on his tour of military inspection, he made enquiries on the subject from the Taotai, the Prefect, and Shih Chih-sün, the present sub-Prefect of Ting-hai. They all affirmed that the island of K'ü Shan, standing, as it did, alone in the midst of the outer sea some three or four hundred li distant from Ting-hai and Ningpo, was inaccessible except by boat, while the exceptional nature of the sands and tides that prevailed in these waters rendered the voyage a difficult one. The attitude of the miscreant Kin K'i-lan and those with him, moreover, who, while openly subservient, were in reality nothing of the kind, and professed obedience only to offer resistance the next moment, caused so much delay in the execution of the survey that it had not yet been possible to complete it. In reply, memorialist directed them to carry out the necessary arrangements with due care and attention, and not to mar their efficacy from a desire to use expedition. On the 25th August last, the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai reported that "he had ascertained by enquiry that the only person on Ta K'ü-shan who resisted measurement of their land were Kin K'i-lan and Hia Ta-kin, and his followers—a few families only—whom the former had summoned to his aid; that he had accordingly consulted with the commandant of the Ting-hai garrison, and that officer had consented to detach gun-vessels and troops to go with [the sub-Prefect's deputy] to seize these individuals and put down insubordination. But that immediately on the landing of this force on the 17th July, at a place on the island called Tao Tow Ngao, Kin K'i-lan had come forward with a band of followers provided with gongs and banners, and resisted all attempts at capture. The road being nothing but a narrow and secluded hill-path, and the water in the ponds being very deep, it was impossible to form the troops into fighting line, and this miscreant had then the audacity to fire upon them with muskets and howitzers, whereupon his followers emerged from the mountain gorges on every side and advanced upon the soldiers. There was then nothing for it but to engage them

then and there, and in the course of the struggle a lieutenant of the right division, Hung Ting-fang by name, Wu Ting-heng, a military graduate, and two soldiers were killed, while fighting vigorously, several officers and soldiers of the various divisions being wounded at the same time. The day was now far advanced and twilight had come on, while the wind and sea were high, and as there was reason to fear that the prestige of the troops would suffer they were withdrawn and returned to the boats. The sub-Prefect had now to apply for reinforcements," &c., &c. Information was further obtained from spies that Kin K'i-lan and his sons, with Hia Ta-kin and those with him, had proceeded to loot certain shops after their encounter with the troops, and had levied exactions from those of the islanders who had taken no part in the fray, making arrangements at the same time with a number of pirates to assist them in digging holes in the paths among the hills wherein they planted stakes to prevent ingress or egress, and aid them in resisting their captors. Jui Chang, Intendant of the Ning, Shao, Tai, circuit, also sent in a report corroborating the story detailed above. Memorialist being of opinion that as Ta K'ü Shan was a solitary island in the midst of the sea beyond the reach of constituted authority, unless powerful reinforcements were immediately sent forward to exterminate the sedition that was brewing, there was reason to fear that it would terminate disastrously, accordingly took counsel with Hwang Shao-ch'un, provincial commander-in-chief, who consented to send 500 Hunan braves and a gunvessel under his command manned by Cantonese, which belonged to the Hai-mén station, to Ting-hai to co-operate with the local forces. They were sent forward under the charge of Ch'eng Pang-kan, sub-Prefect of Tai-chow, an officer of considerable military reputation and experience, who happened to be in Ningpo on business at the time. The *Yuan Kai*, steam-vessel, was ordered to cruise in the neighbourhood of the island to prevent the escape of the insurrectionists by sea. Next, a report was received from Kwoh Ting-yu, general in command of the Ting-hai brigade, who stated that he had himself gone with the auxiliary force and 300 of his own men to the scene of operations; and on the 2nd of August Ch'eng Pang-kan reported that the captains of the various gunvessels [forming the flotilla] had weighed anchor simultaneously on the 19th July, and that he had embarked with his Hunan braves on a steam-vessel, and arrived off Tai Shan on the 20th, where he found that numbers of the well-disposed inhabitants had fled, owing to the exactions and oppression of the insurgents, and learnt that pirates were taking advantage of the occasion to rob and plunder. A victim of an act of piracy having appealed for aid against certain pirates, the sub-Prefect stopped the steamer, lowered a boat, and went in chase of the piratical vessel. Four of the crew were captured alive, numbers were shot who fell into the water, and three unfortunate people were rescued from their captors and a quantity of plunder recovered. The prisoners were handed over to the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai, who elicited from them the fact that they had gone to the island at the invitation of Kin K'i-lan, and as they fully admitted their acts of robbery they were summarily executed. That night the various detachments all reached K'ü Shan, when a council of war was held and the plan of operations decided upon. On the following morning at early dawn the force was landed, but the insurgents had dug up the main and important road, so as to cut off the advance of the troops. A crossing was effected, however, by means of rafts or pontoons, and the force advanced inland, Kin K'i-lan, surrounded by several hundred adherents, emerging meanwhile from his stronghold and advancing to the attack; his force was drawn up in battle

array and poured in bullets like rain, amidst shouts and cries of defiance. Our men were carefully marshalled and advanced in an orderly and dignified manner by three different routes, so as to surround the insurgents [preparatory to] destroying them. Fire was opened simultaneously from howitzer and musket, and sword and lance were employed together; in a few moments one of the leaders of the enemy, bearing a red flag, was killed and numbers of others were taken prisoners and beheaded. The insurgents now began to show signs of not being able to hold their own, and when the steamer opened fire upon them with her big guns, which boomed out with a majestic report the violence of which was something strange to them, they commenced to fall back, fighting as they retreated. Our troops followed them with energy, and while a portion destroyed their stronghold at Pei Yin Ngao, the rest pursued the enemy as far as Cha P'u-mén, where they broke and fled in every direction. At 2 p.m. the troops were recalled, and upon taking count it was found that more than 40 of the insurgents had been killed, 33 banners, 27 foreign muskets and 2 guns, 30 piculs in weight, had been captured, and a number of prisoners taken, making with those killed in the engagement a total of 63. Amongst the prisoners taken was one Kin A-mao, the second son of Kin K'i-lan, who stated that the insurgent leader with the red banner who was killed was called Liu Siao-nang. The prisoners were handed over to the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai, who dealt with them severally after their depositions had been taken. Of the soldiers, 5 were wounded. On the following day the force was again marshalled and sent on a search expedition amongst the hills at Cha P'u Mên, where they captured Kin K'i-lan alive, and he was sent to Ningpo to be dealt with. On the 23rd and 24th, Kin A-mi, the eldest son of the rebel, and Hia Ta-kin were captured and forthwith executed, after they had been duly questioned, and order was then fully restored throughout the island, to the intense satisfaction of the peaceable inhabitants. It was then determined that two gunboats should be left at the island with 100 Hunan braves, to guard the port, keep order, and look for other fugitives, and the remainder were forthwith withdrawn. Such was the sub-Prefect's report of the operations. The memorialist then proceeds to comment upon the ferocious character of Kin K'i-lan, the promoter of all this trouble, whose audacity and utter disregard of the laws are perfectly inexplicable, adding that it is due to the promptitude of Hwang Shao-ch'un, the commander-in-chief, in sending forward auxiliaries, that the majesty of the law has been so fully asserted by the removal of the source of all this trouble. He then offers a tribute of praise to the energy of the sub-Prefect Ch'ên Kang-pang, and the expectant Prefect Chang P'u-ying, in command of the Hunan braves, and suggests the propriety of bestowing upon each of these officers a button of the 3rd grade as a reward for their exertions. He also suggests that the usual marks of compassion shall be bestowed upon the two officers killed in the encounter. The memorial concludes with a statement that the Taotai of Ningpo has been directed to elicit a true confession from Kin K'i-lan and then inflict the full penalty of the law upon him.

CHINESE DOLLARS.

(Shenpao.—Translated for the North-China Herald.)

A silver coinage has become of the first importance for the people of China, and we hear the Marquis Li has been discussing the subject, and has even approved of a design for a coin presented to him for inspection. Still this is only a rumour, and we do not know whether it has been sanctioned or whether the matter has only

reached the stage of discussion. We call attention to this subject. At present new copper cannot be got, as the cost of carriage and the want of labour and capital are not adequate to work the mines of Yunnan. Since the closing of the provincial mints no new cash are issued, the old cash decrease daily, and small mixed cash are then used. This is prohibited, but the fall in the value of cash and the depreciation of silver cause great losses to the people, so that sanded and thin worn down cash compose half of every string. This causes great loss to buyers and sellers in the markets, whilst coiners amass great profits. Both these results are to be deprecated, and, since cash are being disused, better far would it be to bring into use various silver coins, and save the people from being wholly dependent on cash. This would be a most beneficial reform. In all probability the establishment by China of a silver coinage, differing from the foreign coins in design, would cause at first a slight rise in silver, but this would soon settle down and the value of silver become steady. The value of foreign dollars might perhaps fluctuate, but as Chinese silver increased, the importation of foreign coins would cease, and foreign and Chinese coins become of the same value, to the great benefit of the population, by putting a stop to the rigging of the market by unprincipled traders who gain or lose 10,000 taels at an operation. By coining small silver, marketers would not have to carry a weight of cash, but could use cash or silver indiscriminately as they pleased; there would be no fall in the value of cash, and the price of silver being fixed no losses would be incurred. Thus by this one act would so many advantages be attained, whilst the profits should recommend it to the notice of H.E. Li. What then are the reasons for not immediately putting it in force? Probably on account of the consequent depreciation of cash and the accompanying loss, but if small silver and cash were circulated together, lovers of coin would not use cash but silver, and the demand for cash would be diminished one-half. Then men in business, seeing the decreasing importance of cash and that there might be no limit to its depreciation, would without scruple melt their cash and sell it for a profit to melters of copper, and in ten years no cash would be left. The copper mines, on account of cost of carriage and difficulty in getting capital for coining, have been disused for a long time; small cash, sanded cash, and lead cash, have then been employed. But now the mines are all shut and no copper is discoverable; workers in copper have a difficulty in getting any, and people have to use articles made of lead, pottery, bamboo, or wood; of such copper things as they have, one in ten becomes useless at last, and has to be sold; the workers in copper then buy this old copper and melt it down, and if this is insufficient, they have to buy new, but there being none of that, they come to melting down cash. Now old copper is worth in the market 300 cash a catty, and 300 cash melted down gives 2 catties 2 ounces of metal; melting of cash therefore goes on with alacrity and at a handsome profit, and old copper is not bought. When we were in the early years of the Hsien-feng reign, we remember hearing that copper was high and cash 1=10 was in use. In the reigns of Shun-chih, Hang-hsi, and Yung-cheng, 40 or 50 of these could be picked out of a single string. Shopkeepers used, too, to pick out coins inscribed with the character "tung" or "fu," and on New Year's Eve some score of strings of these cash might be got, but melters down of coin had not at that time come into existence. Now-a-days, out of 1,000 we may find 4 or 5 good cash, and, as all can't have been picked out by children to be preserved as curios, we see that in 20 years the great majority of these coins must have been melted down for metal. If cash are disused and silver circulated, then the cash of Keen Loong and Tao Kwang will in all

probability be similarly melted, so that whether silver be coined or be not coined, it will equally give cause for anxiety. The Kang Hsi cash being used, silver should certainly be coined, and in that case who can prevent it being circulated and melted down. The prevention of such an evil must begin at the very source (i.e., no silver coinage.) But men now, who to get copper melt down cash, break a statute law and act clandestinely. All shops that buy copper for making copper vessels, pay for the old metal at a price which does not include meltage fees. The price of copper increases continually, and only the rich can afford to buy copper vessels; the poor, in disgust at its high price, cease to use it, using tin where they did copper and pottery where they did tin. A beneficial change, in our opinion, would be brought about by bringing in a law to prohibit people using copper utensils, and shops from selling copper—disobedience to bring punishment on the heads of both buyer and seller. Men of certain rank might be allowed to use copper. This would not be without precedent, for the statutes now contain sumptuary laws against dress. It should, however, be strictly enforced by the local officials, who should not allow it to become a dead letter. Otherwise as the metal mines can't regain their old footing, and as brass things will be made, it will be necessary to sit still and merely look on while unprincipled men, eager only for profit, fire their furnaces daily and reduce forms to a shapeless mass. Those who do not desire that "perfected articles should be destroyed" should desire still more fervently that such a fate should not befall the coin of the realm.

* Quasi quotation.
27th September.

ITEMS FROM INDIAN PAPERS.

The *Friend of India* says the Simla Volunteers are all up in arms, because a proposal has been made to admit natives into the ranks. The commanding officer has sent round the proposal for the opinions of the members, whether as a joke or not, is not apparent. Five have proposed themselves for enrolment.—In the Ferozepore district, the rise of the Sutlej has once more broken the head-works of the Inundation Canals, and over 100 square miles of land are under water. The damage done to property has been great. On the other hand, a heap of treasure has been discovered by the floods in the old fort of Mumdot, a few miles from Ferozepore.

The *Beacon* of 31st August says:—A telegram was received in Kurrachee last week containing the extraordinary announcement that a tidal wave had just left Attock, and would certainly travel the whole length of the River Indus to the sea, which it would probably reach in about fifteen days. The term storm wave would probably represent the occurrence more correctly than tidal wave. But, anyhow, a remarkable event has happened, arising probably from a sudden rush of water from the mountains, or the rapid melting of some huge avalanche of snow. The announcement has created some uneasiness, as owing to the already flooded state of the Indus Valley, any addition to it might produce serious results.

The *Indian Daily News* learns that the Cashmere authorities reckon that from five to seven thousand emigrants have left for British territory. Such emigration is not, however, looked on favourably by the Cashmere officials, who fear that the emigrants will not return. Notwithstanding the partial failure of the rice crop in Cashmere, the maize is nearly ripe, and it is hoped that the distress will be very shortly considerably relieved.—The *News* says the emigration of natives of India to the British Colony of Fiji has been de-

clared to be lawful. The Government of Fiji have made suitable laws and provisions for the protection of natives of India emigrating to that colony.

The *Rangoon Times* tells us that when Mr. Cooper's murderer was being brought down from Mandalay on board the steamer *Ashley Eden*, at Minjan or some place near it, a lot of Chinese went on board the steamer apparently with the intention of buying the prisoner off, or giving bail for him. Themselves and their money were sent on shore quicker than they came.

The *Englishman* learns that the Bombay Government have received instructions to take over from the Great Indian Peninsula Company at the end of this year, and work on their own account, the Nizam's State Railway, the Dhond and Manmar line, the Wurdah Valley line, and the short branches to the Oomrawutte and Khangaum cotton markets, all of which are at present managed by the Great Indian Peninsula Company.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.—CHINA AND JAPAN.

The *London Gazette* of the 23rd August contains "The China and Japan Order in Council, 1878," which is to commence and have effect (a) As to the making of any warrant or appointment under this Order immediately from and after the making of this Order. (b) As to all other matters and provisions comprised in this Order, immediately from and after the expiration of one month after this Order is first exhibited in the public office of H.M.'s Consul-General for the district of the Consulate of Shanghai, which is to be done forthwith on receipt of a copy of the Order with instructions on this behalf. Notice of such exhibition is to be published as soon thereafter as practicable in each Consular district in China or Japan, in such manner as H.M.'s Ministers there respectively direct. The exhibition to continue for one month, at the expiry of which the Order will commence to take effect.

Articles 9 to 22, both inclusive of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, are revoked.

Articles 36 and 37 of that Order are revoked as regards Japan only.

In this Order "The Secretary of State" means one of H.M.'s Principal Secretaries of State.

Subject to the foregoing provisions, the present Order is to be read as one with that of 1865.

A copy of the Order is to be kept exhibited conspicuously in each Court and Consulate in China and Japan.

Printed copies are to be provided for sale at such reasonable price as H.M.'s Ministers then respectively direct.

Supreme Court of China and Japan.

(1.) There shall be a Chief Justice, and an Assistant-Judge of the Supreme Court of China and Japan.

(2.) The Assistant-Judge shall be the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and the office of Law-Secretary is abolished.

(3.) The Assistant-Judge shall hear and determine such causes and matters, civil and criminal, and transact such other part of the business of the Supreme Court, as the Chief Justice from time to time by general order, or otherwise, directs; and for that he shall have all the like jurisdiction, power, and authority as the Chief Justice.

(4.) Any party to a suit or proceeding wherein any matter or question is heard and determined by the Assistant-Judge shall be entitled, as of course, to a rehearing before the Chief Justice, sitting with the Assistant-Judge, or, in the unavoidable absence of the Assistant-Judge, alone.

(5.) If, on any such rehearing, there is a difference of opinion between the Chief Justice and the Assistant-Judge, the opinion of the Chief Justice shall prevail.

(6.) Throughout the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, and the Rules made thereunder, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall, as regards China, be deemed to be therein substituted for the Judge of the Supreme Court.

(7.) There shall be attached to the Supreme Court a Chief Clerk, and so many officers and clerks as the Secretary of State from time to time thinks fit.

Court for Japan.

5.—(1.) There shall be in and for Japan a Court styled Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan.

(2.) It shall have a seal, bearing its style and such device as the Secretary of State from time to time directs, and (3) shall hold its ordinary sittings at Kanagawa, or, on emergency, at any other place within the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa, but may at any time transfer its ordinary sittings to any place in Japan approved by the Secretary of State or by Her Majesty's Minister in Japan.

(4.) There shall be a Judge and an Assistant-Judge of the Court for Japan.

The same rules appertain with regard to the Assistant-Judge in Japan as for China, per 3, 4, 5, ante.

(8.) In Japan persons accused of crimes which in England are capital shall be tried by the Judge of the Court for Japan, with a jury, and not otherwise.

(9.) There shall be attached to the Court for Japan a Chief Clerk, and so many officers and clerks as the Secretary of State from time to time thinks fit.

Jurisdiction in Japan.

6.—(1.) Her Majesty's Consul for the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa shall cease to hold and form a Provincial Court. But, (2) he shall be, unless otherwise directed, the Assistant-Judge of the Court for Japan.

(3.) All Her Majesty's jurisdiction, civil and criminal, exercisable in Japan shall, for and within the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa, be vested in the Court for Japan as its ordinary original jurisdiction; and (4), beyond Kanagawa and not under this Order vested in the Court for Japan, to the extent and in the manner provided by the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, as modified by this Order, shall be vested in the Provincial Courts in Japan, each for and within its own districts.

(5.) The Court for Japan shall have, in all matters, civil and criminal, an extraordinary original jurisdiction throughout Japan, concurrent with the jurisdiction of the several Provincial Courts in Japan, the same to be exercised subject and according to the provisions of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, as modified by this Order.

7.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Order, the provisions of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, and the Rules in force in the Supreme Court and other Courts in China and Japan made under that Order, shall extend and apply to the Court for Japan, as if the same were a Court (not a Provincial Court) established under that Order.

(2.) For the purpose of the application thereof to the Court of Japan, in Articles 23, 24, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 47, 54 to 57, 59, 61, 62, 67, 68, 69, 72, 74, 77 to 80, 83, 93, 99, 102, 105, 108 to 111, 117, 119, 120 to 126, 144, 153, 155, all inclusive of that Order, and throughout those Rules, there shall, as regards Japan, be deemed to be substituted Japan for China or for China and Japan, Kanagawa for Shanghai, the Court for Japan for the Supreme Court for China and Japan, and the Judge and Assistant-Judge of the Court for Japan for the Judge and Assistant-Judge of the Supreme Court; but not so as to affect those Articles or Rules as regards operation thereof in and for China.

8.—(1.) Article 119 of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, relative to appeals in civil cases to the Supreme Court for China and Japan, shall extend and apply to appeals from decisions of the Court for Japan, as if the same were a Provincial Court within that Article; and that Article, and the Rules therein referred to, shall accordingly, notwithstanding anything in this Order, apply to appeals from the Court for Japan to the Supreme Court for China and Japan; but the last-mentioned appeals shall not be heard except by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, sitting with the Assistant-Judge of that Court, or, in the unavoidable absence of the Assistant-Judge, alone.

(2.) If, on any such appeal, there is a difference of opinion between the Chief Justice and the Assistant-Judge, the opinion of the Chief Justice shall prevail.

(3.) Articles 120 to 126, both inclusive, of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, relative to appeals to the Supreme Court for China and Japan in criminal cases, shall extend and apply to appeals to that Court in criminal cases from decisions of the Court for Japan, both in cases originally tried in the

Court for Japan and in cases brought by virtue of this Order before that Court, under those Articles, by way of appeal from any Court or Officer in Japan; and, for the purposes of this Article, the Court for Japan shall, in cases so brought before it by way of appeal, be deemed to be the Court trying the case.

Judges in China and Japan.

9.—(1.) The Chief Justice and Assistant-Judge of the Supreme Court and the Judge and Assistant-Judge of the Court for Japan shall each be appointed by Her Majesty by warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual, subject and according to Article 23 of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865.

(2.) The Chief Justice and the Judge shall each be a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalisation, who, at the time of his appointment, is a member of the Bar of England, Scotland, or Ireland, of not less than seven years' standing.

10.—(1.) In case of the death or illness, or the absence or intended absence from the district of the Consulate of Shanghai, of the Chief Justice or of the Assistant-Judge of the Supreme Court, Her Majesty's Minister in China may appoint a fit person to be the Acting Chief Justice or to be the Acting Assistant-Judge (as the case may require); but, unless in any case the Secretary of State otherwise directs, the Assistant-Judge, if present and able to act, shall always be appointed to be Acting Chief Justice.

(2.) In case of the death or illness, or the absence or intended absence from the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa, of the Judge or of the Assistant-Judge of the Court for Japan, Her Majesty's Minister in Japan may appoint a fit person to be the Acting Judge or to be the Acting Assistant-Judge (as the case may require.)

Vice Admiralty Jurisdiction.

11.—Any proceeding taken in China or Japan against one of Her Majesty's vessels, or the officer commanding the same, as such, in respect of any claim cognisable in a Court of Vice-Admiralty, shall be taken only in the Supreme Court or in the Court for Japan, under the Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction thereof respectively.

Pending Proceedings.

12.—Nothing in this Order shall affect any suit or proceedings, civil or criminal, pending at the commencement of this Order, with reference either to the original proceedings therein, or to any appeal therein, or otherwise; save that all suits and proceedings, civil or criminal, instituted or taken in the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa before and pending at the commencement of this Order are hereby transferred to the jurisdiction of the Court for Japan; and the same may be carried on and shall be tried, heard, and determined, in and by the Court for Japan, as nearly as may be, as if the same had been instituted or taken in the district of the Consulate of Kanagawa after the commencement of this Order.

Correspondence.

SHIP MASTERS' CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

SIR,—May I through the medium of your columns draw attention to a serious abuse in the new Registry Office of Shipping for China and Japan. The Registrar informs me that so long as the Insurance Offices or the Surveyor connected with his department do not object, he will place any individual named as master, whether he holds or not a certificate of competency. I need not point out how hard such a rule is on certified British masters, who have earned their certificates by hard work, and never had a question raised as to their ability. The whole previous action of the Board of Trade has been to raise the standard of British seamanship by the requirement of strict examinations, before permitting officers to be placed in responsible positions; yet here on the coast of China, men who have passed the necessary steps, and have had no stain attached to their ability, are placed in competition with Tom, Dick and Harry, who are officially acknowledged as equally

fit and suitable with themselves. It is only common justice that men who have passed the proper examination of their profession, should be upheld, to prevent the certain degradation which must ensue by opening the door to incompetent officers; and local Insurance Offices, as most interested in the safety of British shipping in these waters, ought surely to interfere in a matter which concerns them so nearly.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

A BRITISH SHIPMASTER.

8th October.

POISONOUS LIQUOR.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

DEAR SIR,—As I think the facts in connection with the recent death of a marine serving on board H.M.S. *Charybdis* deserve more publicity and ventilation than they could get through the hurried jottings in a doctor's note book, I should feel grateful if you could find space in your journal for the few brief remarks I shall make on the subject.

This man, shortly after his return on board, became seriously indisposed, and after an illness of 10 hours died at the General Hospital with all the symptoms, and in all the agony, of a death brought about apparently by irritant poisoning. That such was the case was fully established by a post-mortem examination.

This poor fellow had spent his day in a Hongkew booth (I will not call it a "public" house,) one of those estimable establishments which, as I understand, invite the confiding mariner to the purchase of gin at one dollar fifty cents per dozen. It is possible, I think, to conceive the purity of the liquor got rid of at such an exorbitant rate.

An exactly similar case to the above has occurred at the General Hospital within the last three weeks, and it is only to be wondered at that instances are not of more frequent occurrence.

Surely, Mr. Editor, in the interests of humanity in these enlightened days, when sanitation and its laws have become a practical study, and philanthropy is, if the term be allowed, "taking head," such cases as these demand more than a passing notice, and the licensed retailers of poisonous liquors deserve as much of our consideration as a contagious diseases act.

With many apologies for occupying so much of your valuable space, I beg to subscribe myself, yours, in the interests of fair play,

POOR JACK.

14th Oct.

A REPLY.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

SIR,—Will you allow me to express my deep regret and amazement on reading the letter of "Wanderer" to the *Inverness Courier*, which you have transferred to your columns. Who "Wanderer" may be, and whether the *Inverness Courier* is an influential newspaper or not, are questions as to which I am entirely and willingly ignorant, but it is altogether another matter when such libellous and abusive statements are copied, without note or comment, by such a paper as the *North-China Herald*, and when their power to sting and harm is thus intensified manifold. I confess I had thought it no unimportant part of the duty of an editor to suppress, by silence, whatever was not manifestly for the public good, and I can only account for the quasi-sanction you have given to what must be as offensive to yourself as it has proved painful to your readers by supposing that its true character in some way escaped your notice.

"Wanderer's" remarks about the influence of the opium traffic upon the people and their relation to Christianity may be taken for what they are worth. In spite of his fathering his opinions, however, upon Roman Catholic Missionaries, I cannot help thinking they are purely his own, for they certainly differ *toto coelo* from those which I have at different times heard expressed by these gentlemen. Anyhow, I would rather trust the judgment of intelligent Chinese, whether Christian or otherwise, upon such a point as this; and after an experience of over sixteen years, I have yet to meet one such who would seriously take the position of "Wanderer," or who would not admit that the unfortunate association of foreigners with the traffic has seriously compromised our character in the eyes of good and patriotic men, and thus necessarily prejudiced the best minds of the nation against anything we may have to offer to them, whether in the form of material civilization or of religious and moral teaching.

"Wanderer's" implied sneer at Protestant Missionaries and his comparison of their policy and success with those of their brethren of the Roman Catholic Church, can only be treated with contempt. Of one thing he may be assured, that there are not a few Roman Catholic Missionaries who are far from grateful for such aid. But I wish it were possible to have even one of the towns in Mongolia of which he speaks as Christianised, named. Protestant and Romanist alike would surely be rejoiced if the statement made could be proved to be true. Alas, I fear that the whole story is but the fruit of "Wanderer's" imagination. Having friends who are well acquainted with Mongolia, and knowing something of the quite exceptional difficulties of evangelistic work there, I must have better evidence than such wild words as "Wanderer's" before I can rejoice.

But the most uncharitable and harmful part of "Wanderer's" letter remains to be noticed. I allude, of course, to his remarks about the Chinese officials and their feelings and conduct with respect to the terrible calamities which have befallen the nation. Surely, Mr. Editor, it is time that a stop was somehow put to a mode of speaking which is as impolitic as it is often unjust, and which can only have the effect of embittering the most influential class in the Empire against us, and thus more than neutralizing our efforts to do them good. I say nothing about what ought also to weigh with us, our own character for generosity and Christian courtesy.

Of course there are times when we ought to speak and must speak. No one who knows me will suppose that I am willing to be silent when there is flagrant wrong-doing in high quarters. We all know that unhappily the whole structure of official life in China is unavoidably corrupt, because it rests upon a false basis, and that it is well-nigh an impossibility for a man of high character and generous spirit to carry his principles into practice. But are we therefore to assume that there are no such men in official stations—nay, are we to make them all out to be the veriest scoundrels, and destitute of even the ordinary feelings of humanity? I am in a position to say that a comparatively recent article from your Tientsin correspondent in reference to some supposed misconduct of an official in the Ho-chien prefecture, has done much harm. Even supposing the charge a true one, the bitter tone of that article was inexcusable. But it sinks into insignificance beside the slanders of "Wanderer." One is at a loss for words to express fittingly the indignation which every generous man must feel on hearing it said that the burning of the 2,000 women and children at Tientsin was a pre-arranged massacre, and that the mandarins rejoice over the famine and the dreadful mortality ensuing, because it will make the Government of the people easier for 20 years to come. I can only give "Wanderer's"

statement, that such things are "generally believed," an emphatic denial. I care not who told him. It is simply not true.

Did space permit, I should like to add a good deal as to what I know of the hearty co-operation of some of the officials with us in the work of relief, and of their grateful recognition of what foreigners have done in the feeding of the perishing. The letter of H.E. Li Hung-chang, in your paper of to-day, is not mere official politeness. During some four months which I have myself spent this year in one of the suffering districts, I have not only met with great and even painstaking courtesy from district magistrates acting under the Viceroy's orders, but have had some evidence that, amid difficulties of which "Wanderer" can form no conception, these gentlemen have tried in some measure to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. The testimony of our devoted friends, who have gone to Shansi upon relief work, is very emphatic in the same direction. But I must close this already lengthy letter, only entreating all who may read it to remember that the golden rule applies to words no less than to deeds, and that if we really wish to fight successfully the sin and misery of China, we must be careful not to wound the feelings and alienate the sympathy of such of her own sons as, with doubtless less light than we possess, are still striving after what they believe to be good and true.

I am, Sir,

Obediently Yours,

JONATHAN LEES.

10th Oct.

OVERLAND ROUTE TO CHINA, VIA ASSAM.

The following letter was addressed to the Editor of the *Indian Tea Gazette*, and appeared in that paper of the 4th September last:—

SIR,—The question of an Overland route to China via the Assam Valley in connection with a railway through this province is becoming gradually more prominent, and local interests—quite naturally—are pressing forward as rivals, for the site.

Undoubtedly the time is ripe for a railway to the Eastern Tea districts. Upper Assam sends down so large a proportion of the total out-turn that it stands foremost as needing rapid communication, so that a railway, if started at all, had best be carried up the whole way at once.

There can, I presume, be no doubt that eventually "Saikwa" will be a terminus, situated as it is so centrally for both commercial and political purposes, and having such ample water communication in almost every direction.

I would, however, draw your attention to the fact, that for any route through to China, Saikwa is not in the line, and that though a "terminus," it cannot become the terminus for such a route. Ere the railway surveys are complete, it will be needful to explore the passes leading out of Assam, so that in future there may be no mistakes as to the direction that should have been adopted from the first to combine a railway for Assam itself, and the equally important Indo-Chinese line.

That the merits of the various passes out of Eastern Assam are not well understood is obvious. It is comparatively easy to draw a line, more or less direct, on a map from some point in Upper Assam to the Yangtze or "Likiang-fu," and say, "why cannot this be done." It is not so easy to indicate on the spot a likely trade route or line for a road or railway.

Wilcox, who explored pretty thoroughly the whole eastern frontier for a pass, has left on record enough to cool the most ardent advocate. Others have followed, but all more or less confirm his views in regard to the extremely difficult nature of the country via the Tengapani, Brahmakund, and Brahmaputra valley. So we may at once say a railway is utterly impossible.

It would need the most stupendous cuttings, tunnels and bridges, far outweighing in cost any possible return; and this, be it remembered, in the portion alone that we are already acquainted with. What lies beyond is re-

puted still worse, and as crossing snow. Northwards again, via the Dihong, or Dihong gorges, the outlet is equally uninviting. The upper Subansire or Lopa-cha-chu, is not well explored, though routes not far from it are known to pass, for three-fourths of a mile, along the face of precipices 1,500 feet above an abyss, and on a path of stone slabs resting on 18" iron piers let into the rock face. This is pretty conclusive that other routes, if near, must be worse, or such danger and trouble would hardly be taken. The Towang route is, again, difficult, and too far west: it leads to Tibet.

South of the Tengapani we have Dr. R. B. R. 14,500 feet, with a pass south of it explored by Wilcox, when en route for Manché, and a study of his sufferings along this line would be enough to deter any one advocating this as a trade route. South of Dapapani is the upper portion of the "Buri Dihing"; whether there is a route up it, crossing Eastern Patkai and going down the Sitkha, is not known, though Singhphus travel that way. It is one of the routes to be explored, and may give a pass at perhaps 5,000 feet or less. The Namrup basin, however, would so far seem to be the only reliable and easy outlet from Eastern Assam; and here we get one at an elevation of some 1,500 feet only, that leads via Hukong and the Shoemai direct to Western Yunnan, and a route at present in use.

It is noteworthy that Assam has not been invaded by large forces from the north or east. From the south-eastern extremity alone, and up the Namrup basin, came the Ahoms in 1228, and Burmese in 1818-20; the latter 20,000 strong. This "Burmese route" in fact is, as far as we can see, the only feasible outlet east that will lead us to China by a likely pass. All the others are some 8,000 or 10,000 feet, and many over snow, in addition to the generally difficult nature of such a country. By the Patkai route, past Nongyang lake to the Hukong Valley, we cross at the highest, say 1,500 to 2,000 feet, and fall at once into a beaten track for Yunnan.

By this route alone also can the huge snow-clad ridges be turned that stand as barriers east and west of the Upper Irrawadi (or Shoemai), and that stretch down from the north to about the parallel of 27°. They can be traced clearly at almost any season from an elevation in that direction, as Kongtam, Rangatu and the Singhphus hills; it must be remembered, too, that they lie east and beyond the tract explored by Wilcox, who says they rose like a "towering wall stretching from east to west" before him. Nothing like a "route to China" can be expected in that quarter, so the subject, as far as this portion of it is concerned (and it is a main feature with a railway in view) may be said to be clearly defined, and not at all doubtful, that we neither get out north, north-east, or east. To the E.S.E. we must turn if we want an outlet, and there we find the only one with any traditions attached to it,—one also that will enable us to get out of Assam at under 2,000 feet above the sea level. That such a route passes through the northern extremity of Burma is actually an advantage, as a means of amalgamating with us the advocates of a Burmese route pure and simple.

The Grosvenor mission has amply demonstrated that no route is practicable from Bhamo via Momein to Yunnan, but that the heads of the valleys must be reached at a point more nearly coinciding with the route above indicated, if we hope to cross the valleys without great difficulty.

A joint Indo-Burmese route would answer better than any simple one, and the line is not after all very indirect, as might, at first sight, appear.

I take the liberty of laying these remarks before you, inasmuch as it seems likely that a "route to China" may be held to constitute one of the main inducements to push the railway through Assam, and that those who investigate the subject with this end in view, may be disheartened at the small chance there seemed, so far, of overcoming these great eastern barriers. There is a good deal known regarding them, and it is mainly of a discouraging nature, whereas but little is known as to the pass over Patkai to which I allude, and which promises to be our outlet in the end. A note on this route is finished, and, with elevations and maps, will soon be in the hands of Dr. John Anderson, of the Indian Museum, for publication; and, trust-

ing it may assist in the solution of a very old, but pressing, question, i.e., a land route from India to China,

I remain, yours sincerely,
S. E. PEAL.

Law Reports.

H.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

8th October.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq., Deputy Chief Judge.

RAPHAEL SIDKEE RAPHAEL v. BENJAMIN DAVID BENJAMIN.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. RENNIE appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiff asked that an account might be taken of his dealings and transactions with defendant since July, 1877, under the direction of the Court, and that any balance due him should be handed over to him by the defendant.

The petition set forth that the plaintiff and defendant, who are both merchants, had been until recently on terms of friendship and intimacy, and although not partners they had undertaken from time to time business operations on joint account. Plaintiff alleged that he had furnished money to the defendant, who had also received money on the plaintiff's account and at present held some share certificates belonging to him; plaintiff at divers times had also lent money to the defendant and paid money on his account at his request, and plaintiff alleged that defendant was now indebted to him. In June, 1877, plaintiff went to Bombay, and at the time of his departure a settlement of accounts was come to between him and the defendant, but since that time no settlement had been come to, although plaintiff and defendant had each made out separate statements, but they differed so materially that there was no prospect of their ever being able to agree, and in consequence plaintiff prayed that an account might be taken of their dealings and transactions under the direction of the Court.

Defendant, in the course of his answer, denied that the plaintiff had ever lent him money, and asserted that a settlement of accounts had been come to between them up to 31st December, 1877. He denied that he owed the plaintiff any money, and on the other hand alleged that the plaintiff was largely indebted to him, and that he held certain shares in the Shanghai Steam Navigation Company as security. While denying the necessity for a statement of accounts to be made out under the direction of the Court, he offered no objection to the order asked for being granted.

His LORDSHIP made an order for an account of the dealings and transactions of the parties to be taken from July, 1877, by Messrs. Corner and Buchanan, who should report to the Court. The question of costs was to stand over, each party being required to deposit in Court an estimated amount to pay the fees of the accountants.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 10th Oct.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

R. (POLICE) v. ROBERT BLAKE and GEORGE RIDLEY.

Drunk and Fighting.

Prisoners belong to the crew of H.M.'s corvette *Charybdis*, and they were charged with being drunk and fighting in the Nanking Road, opposite the Temperance Hall.

They admitted the offence. His WORSHIP ordered them each to pay a fine of \$3 and the costs, or in default seven days imprisonment.

R. (POLICE) v. WILLIAM STEPHENS, Assault.

Prisoner, who is staying at the Sailors' Home, was charged with being drunk and assaulting a Chinaman in the Woosung Road on Monday last.

Prisoner and another man visited a native house in the Woosung Road on the night in

question and created a disturbance, which culminated in their making a hasty retreat. When in the street they came in contact with a Chinaman and assaulted him badly. The Chinaman said the prisoner was only partly dressed, and that he struck him on the cheek, just below the eye, with his boot, inflicting a wound which had incapacitated him from work ever since. His face was cut and much swollen, but as far as appearances went the injury was not of so serious a nature as to prevent his working.

Prisoner, who did not deny the assault, was ordered to pay a fine of \$10 and the costs, and a sum of \$2 by way of compensation to the prosecutor.

15th Oct.

R. (POLICE) v. WILLIAM DIVINE.

A Dangerous Drunkard.

Prisoner belongs to the engineering department of the steamer *Glenegles*, and he was brought up under the following circumstances. Between nine and ten o'clock on Sunday morning, he was intoxicated in Hongkew, and went into a native carpenter's shop and wilfully broke a saw worth half a dollar. Then he ran away into the Woosung Road, where he took a shovel from a municipal coolie and entered a native wine shop. Here he upset a board of cash, and on one of the inmates remonstrating with him, he aimed a blow at his head. The man raised his hand to protect his head, and received an ugly cut on the palm, which had caused him much pain, and, according to a native Doctor, would prevent his following his occupation for twenty days. From the wine shop prisoner went to another native house in the same street, where he smashed crockery estimated at the value of \$1. Then he ran away, and was apprehended in the street by the police.

Prisoner said he was drunk, and did not remember anything that he had done.

The Chief Engineer of the *Glenegles* gave him a good character for sobriety and industry.

His *WORSHP* told him that it was very fortunate for him the blow with the shovel was wasted off the Chinaman's head in the way it was, for which he ought to be very thankful. He should fine him \$5 and costs, and he would have to pay \$4 to the Chinaman he had injured, and \$1.50 for the damage he had done, amounting altogether to \$12.40.

R. (POLICE) v. CARBO.

Stealing Clothing.

Prisoner, who is a Lascar, is one of the crew of the German barque *Rosa Boettcher*, and he was charged with stealing two coats, a pair of trousers, and a shirt belonging to a shipmate. The articles had been pledged in Hongkew, and prisoner went with the prosecutor to redeem them. After doing so, prosecutor asked permission of the pawn-broker to leave the articles in his shop for a short time, saying he would call for them. The pawn-broker allowed him to do so, and prosecutor and prisoner then went away together. Soon afterwards prisoner returned alone, and asked for the clothes. They were given him. He put one of the coats on, and repledged the other articles in his own name for \$1.90. Subsequently the prosecutor called at the shop for his clothes, and was told what the prisoner had done. He then went in search of the prisoner, and, seeing him in the street, he had him arrested by the police.

Prisoner admitted the offence, and he was sent to gaol for two months.

R. (POLICE) v. CHARLES WHEELER.

A Violent Husband.

Prisoner had been arrested on a warrant, charging him with assaulting his wife.

His wife appeared and said she did not wish to press the charge if prisoner would promise not to "lick" her again. She had a black eye, and her face appeared much swollen.

Prisoner promised not to strike her again.

His *WORSHP* told him that he had evidently caused his wife great pain, but notwithstanding she did not wish to prosecute him now that he had promised not to strike her again. He hoped he felt grateful for her leniency, and that he would keep his promise. If he did not and came before him again, he should send him to prison for a long period.

Prisoner was then discharged.

Extracts.

THE NEW CRIMINAL CODE.

(London Gazette.)

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable Colin. Baron Blackburn, one of Her Majesty's Lords of Appeal in Ordinary; the Right Honourable Charles Robert Barry, one of the Judges of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in Ireland; Sir Robert Lush, Knt., one of the Judges of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice; and Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, Q.C., K.C.S.I., to be Her Majesty's Commissioners to inquire into and consider the provisions of a draft code relating to indictable offences prepared for the purpose of being submitted to Parliament during the ensuing Session, and to report thereon, and to suggest such alterations and amendments in the existing law as to indictable offences, and the procedure relating thereto, as may seem desirable and expedient; and Hugh Cowie, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to the Commission.

THE NEW GERMAN REICHSTAG.

(The Times.)

It may be of interest to compare the distribution of party strength in the new Reichstag with how it stood in its predecessor. But in order to correctly appreciate the relative gains and losses, we should drop out of view the double returns above referred to, and treat them as distinct individuals. This is done in the following table:—

Reich- stag of 1877-8.	Re- sults.	New seats	New losses	Net gain or loss on former strength.
National Liberals	128. 85 .. 43 ..	12 ..	97 ..	loss, 31
Centre	99. 97 .. 2 ..	8 ..	105 ..	gain, 6
Conservatives	41. 39 .. 2 ..	23 ..	62 ..	" 21
Imperialists	37. 33 .. 4 ..	24 ..	57 ..	" 29
Progressists	37. 21 .. 15 ..	5 ..	26 ..	loss, 10
Free Liberals	14. 7 .. 7 ..	2 ..	9 ..	" 5
Polish Members	14. 13 .. 1 ..	1 ..	14 ..	steady
Social Democrats	12. 4 .. 8 ..	5 ..	9 ..	loss, 3
Alsatian Protest Party	9. 8 .. 1 ..	2 ..	10 ..	gain, 1
Alsatian Antono- mists	5. 3 .. 2 ..	1 ..	4 ..	loss, 1
Popular Party	1. 1 .. — ..	2 ..	3 ..	gain, 2
Danish Member	1. 1 .. — ..	— ..	1 ..	steady

In some of the cases of "re-election," counted in the foregoing table, it is not the former member who has been elected, but another person belonging to the same political party. We have reckoned such cases as re-elections because, from a party point of view, they are such, leaving the representative strength of the party simply as it was. The total number of "new members" who did not sit in the last Reichstag is 117, or very nearly three-tenths of the whole number—rather a considerable renewal of the representative body.

CONSECRATION OF THE BRITISH FLAG AT CYPRUS.

On Aug. 18th a somewhat imposing ceremony took place at Nicosia, the British flag being consecrated at the Greek Convent of the Virgin, about a mile outside the town, and adjoining the Governor's camp. Sir Garnet Wolseley and the members of his staff attended in undress uniform. The scene presented, when all had assembled and got themselves into settled positions, was, to a European, strikingly novel and imposing. In the distance the mountains hemmed in the landscape. Close at hand were the clustered tents of the British camp and the busy belongings of such travelling military townships, while nearer still was an ancient church. The peasant girls of the island, dressed in their best, and wearing brightly-coloured petticoats and stockings, and having their heads adorned with flowers, had assembled to witness the spectacle. The eye also took in, here and there, companies of the Bombay Lancers on their mules, and the English Royal Engineers, military orderlies, swarthy-looking mountaineers, and the leading inhabitants of Nicosia. In the Convent Church a solemn Mass was chanted by a choir of ecclesiastics and monks, who wore long black robes. In a procession which was formed at the end of the Mass a golden crucifix and several other sacred emblems were borne aloft. There was another service outside the Convent. On a carpeted space in front of the building stood

Sir Garnet Wolseley, and close to him was a gilt throne. Some prayers having been offered and psalms sung, the flag was incensed and blessed. After the blessing the flag was hoisted aloft between the towers of the church by a young priest. A guard of sixty-nine Gourkhas presented arms, the church bells clanged joyously, the assembled multitude set up hearty and general cheers for the Queen of England, the British nation, and Sir Garnet Wolseley, the Lord High Commissioner, the richly-robed Archimandrite leading the applause.

THE PLANET VULCAN.

(The Times.)

There seems little reason to doubt that a new planet nearer to the sun than Mercury has been discovered, and that this planet really is Lescarbault's Vulcan. In our remarks upon the recent eclipse (the *Mail*, Wednesday, Aug. 7th) we mentioned that the star Theta Cancri, of the fifth magnitude, lay close to the spot where Professor Watson saw a star-like object of between the fourth and fifth magnitudes. But, as we said, we could not believe that an observer so skilful had mistaken Theta Cancri for a planet. We have since received from Washington a copy of the chart which was prepared for the use of those observers (including Professor Watson) who were to search for an intra-mercurial planet. It shows Theta Cancri and many stars much smaller. No doubt, then, Watson saw both Theta Cancri and the stranger, and probably our surmise was correct that the proximity of the two bodies enabled Watson to indicate so exactly the apparent magnitude of the stranger. We now learn further that he had prepared for the search in such a way as to be able to determine the exact position of any unknown planetary body which might be near the sun during totality. He had provided his equatorial with paper circles on which to mark the difference of position between the sun and any body not marked on the chart.

But this is not all. If Watson had merely recognized a strange star in the sun's neighbourhood, it would not have been even certain that he had seen a planet. For a new star might have shone forth in the Crab, even as in May, 1866, a new star appeared in the Northern Crown, and in November, 1876, another appeared in the Swan. And though the probability would have been enormously in favour of the theory that the stranger was a planet, doubts might very reasonably have been entertained respecting the identity of the new planet and Lescarbault's Vulcan, unless some further evidence had been forthcoming. Such evidence has been obtained, and, when taken in connexion with all the known circumstances of the case, it appears to us to establish beyond reasonable doubt the real existence of the planet which had so long been regarded as a myth. A brief sketch of the history of this planet will probably interest our readers. It will also serve to introduce and to render intelligible the evidence which seems to identify Watson's new planet with Lescarbault's Vulcan.

The great French mathematician Leverrier, from a careful study of the motion of Mercury, discovered that the greater axis of that planet's path was shifting more rapidly than it ought to do according to the theory of gravitation applied to the known members of the solar system. The reader must not run away with the idea that we speak of a very obvious, still less of any very remarkable, discrepancy. The excess of motion left unaccounted for was such that one complete revolution of the axis (or technically one complete circuit of the perihelion) would be made in excess of what theory required, in the course of about 30,000 years—a slight discrepancy, and, in one would say, scarcely worth noting. But it is in such discrepancies that astronomy has ever recognized the promise of important discoveries. Leverrier definitely announced, as the result of his discovery, that between the sun and Mercury there must be matter as yet unrecognized by astronomers. It might be a single planet, or a group of small planets, or a mighty disc of cosmical dust, but unquestionably matter whose combined mass is comparable with that of our own earth exists between the sun and the orbit of Mercury. Leverrier himself inclined to the opinion that the disturbing body was not a single planet, but a ring of small bodies.

Soon after Leverrier had publicly expressed this opinion (on 2nd January, 1860), he learnt that M. Lescarbault, a doctor of Orléans, had seen on 26th March, 1859, a round black spot on the sun's face, and had watched it travelling across like a planet in transit. It had been visible for more than an hour and a quarter. Leverrier received the communication doubtingly. He could not understand why three-quarters of a year should have been allowed to elapse before so important an observation had been publicly announced. He went to Orléans with the idea rather of exposing a pretender than of obtaining satisfactory evidence respecting a new planet. "The predominant idea in Leverrier's mind," says Abbé Moigno, "was the wish to unmask an attempt to impose upon him, as the person more likely than any other astronomer to listen to the allegation that his prophecy had been fulfilled." The interview was a strange one. Leverrier, like some other eminent astronomers, was not a man of pre-eminently gentle manners. "It is you, then," he said, looking sternly at Lescarbault, "who pretend to have seen an intra-mercurial planet. You have committed a grave offence in hiding your observation—if you have really made it—for nine months. I come here to demonstrate that you are either dishonest or deceived. Tell me at once, and without equivocation, what you have seen." Lescarbault described his observation. "Where is your chronometer?" "My chronometer is this watch, the companion of my professional journeys." "What," shouted Leverrier, "you pretend to estimate seconds with that old watch? My suspicions are confirmed already." "Excuse me, I have here a pendulum which beats seconds," said Lescarbault, showing at the same time, with an ivory ball suspended by a silk thread, he was able to keep true record of successive seconds. Leverrier, with a grunt which might be understood to express either contempt or satisfaction, turned to examine Lescarbault's telescope, and asked for the record of the observations, which Lescarbault produced. It was written on a piece of laudanum-stained paper, doing service as a marker in the *Connaissance des Temps*. Presently he asked Lescarbault what distance he had deduced for the new planet. Lescarbault admitted that he had been unable to deduce any, being no mathematician. The interview satisfied Leverrier that an intra-mercurial planet had really been seen. "With a grace and dignity full of kindness," says Moigno, "he congratulated Lescarbault on the important discovery which he had made. Anxious to obtain some mark of respect for the discoverer of Vulcan, Leverrier made inquiry concerning his private character, and learnt from the village curé, the Juge de Paix, and other functionaries, that he was a skilful physician and a worthy man. With such high recommendations as these, M. Leverrier requested from M. Rouland, the Minister of Public Instruction, the decoration of the Legion of Honour for Lescarbault. The Minister communicated this request to the Emperor, who, by a decree dated 25th January, 1860, conferred on the village astronomer the honours so justly due to him."

But when year after year passed without any sign of the new planet being seen, many astronomers began to think that Lescarbault must have been deceived in some way. In particular, the circumstance that during total eclipses of the sun no intra-mercurial planet had been recognized, though careful search had been made for such bodies, seemed a fatal obstacle to faith in Lescarbault's observation. If his estimate of the size of Vulcan, as the supposed planet was called, were even approximately correct, the planet, when favourably placed, should shine more brightly than Mercury at his brightest. Vulcan could not, therefore, have escaped recognition when so placed, even before the observers of solar eclipses began specially to search for him, and it was not credible that he had never chanced to be so placed in any of the numerous total eclipses which have been carefully observed during the last three centuries. News came, moreover, that Liais, observing the sun at Rio Janeiro at the very same time, saw no dark spot where Lescarbault had perceived Vulcan. Liais stated that the work he was engaged upon (the determination of the decrease of brightness near the sun's edge) had rendered it necessary for him to examine with special care the part of the sun where Lescarbault saw the planet. Thus his negative

result acquired almost the force of positive evidence. Leverrier's faith in Vulcan remained, however, unshaken. Even so late as the spring of 1877, he requested astronomers to watch for a transit of Vulcan on 22nd March. On that occasion Sir G. Airy sent telegrams to India, Australia, and New Zealand, requesting that the sun might be observed every two or three hours. "Without saying positively that he believed or disbelieved in the existence of the planet," he said, "he thought that since Leverrier was so confident, the opportunity ought not to be neglected by any one who professed to take an interest in the progress of planetary astronomy." Leverrier himself wrote to Santiago de Chili and other places. The sun was observed by astronomers for three successive days, viz., on 21st, 22nd and 23rd March. Referring to English time, it may be truly said, strange though it sounds, that the sun was observed by night as well as by day, for the watch was continued in New Zealand and Australia all through our night hours. But no planet was seen.

Shortly before this a strange event had happened. News had arrived from China that Herr Weber, an observer of considerable experience, had seen a small round spot on the sun (4th April, 1876), looking much as a small planet might be expected to do. Though he had not seen the spot actually in motion, he had looked for it a few hours later, and found it had vanished from view, whereas a sun spot in the same position would scarcely have shifted at all during the interval. It was, of course, possible that the spot might really have been a small sun spot which had disappeared after the manner of such spots. Still, Herr Weber thought this unlikely. He therefore communicated his observation to Herr Wolff, the well known student of sun spots. Wolff found satisfactory evidence that the spot was Vulcan in the circumstance that, according to his own estimate of Vulcan's period, that planet should have been on or very near the sun on 4th April, 1876. Leverrier combined together other such observations as Weber's (for other round spots have been seen once, and once only, on the sun), and found four possible paths for Vulcan, which would fairly account for the observations, including Weber's. One of these in particular seemed to accord so well with Lescarbault's and the other observations that Leverrier considered it exceedingly probable that Vulcan really exists and follows that particular path. But the strange part of the story is yet to come. The round spot seen by Weber was not an intra-mercurial planet after all. The records of those observatories where the sun is systematically observed were carefully examined, and it was found that at two of them Weber's spot had been noted. At the Madrid observatory the spot had been seen and described in terms which left no doubt that it was a true sun spot. But at Greenwich far more satisfactory evidence had been obtained. The spot had been photographed there. When the photograph was examined, the spot was not only found to be unmistakably solar, but to be not even round, though in Weber's small telescope it doubtless seemed so. It will be inferred that a certain degree of doubt affects the evidence which we have now to adduce in favour of the opinion that Watson saw Vulcan. If Weber's spot, which certainly was not Vulcan, was yet seen where Vulcan would have been, on the most probable theory of his motion, the circumstance that Watson's star can similarly be reconciled with this theory is manifestly not decisive in favour of the conclusion that that star was Vulcan. Still there is an important distinction between the observation of a bright body and the observation of a dark spot on the sun. The chance that the bright body seen near the sun in total eclipse was a new star is exceedingly small compared with the chance that any small round spot on the sun seen once only was a sun spot. The sun's disc is small, and spots often appear on it; the heavens are wide, and new stars appear there only at long intervals. If, then, a bright body is seen where no stars should be, the chances are so enormously against its being a star that very slight subsidiary evidence would suffice to establish the theory of its planetary nature.

Now M. Gaillot, director of the "Bureau des Calculs," has compared the observed position of Watson's star with the position which Vulcan should have according to the four orbits determined by Leverrier. He has

found [that one of these orbits agrees fairly (*assez bien*) with the position of the body observed on July 29th. He has even calculated the position of the planet for the beginning of August. We infer that the planet would be at its greatest distance on the eastern side of the sun (about 18 sunbreadths from him) on or about August 30th, and that a transit might possibly occur on or about September 11th.

If Vulcan has really been observed, and the orbit by which M. Gaillot has reconciled Lescarbault's observations with Watson's is really that of an intra-mercurial planet, then the planet travels round the sun in a period less than that in which the sun rotates on his axis. Its period is about 24 days, and its distance from the sun about 15 million miles, and if it has inhabitants they are exposed to a heat exceeding some 36-fold that which we receive from the sun. It would follow from Gaillot's theory of the new planet that when Watson saw it it was approaching superior conjunction—in other words, it was passing the part of its path furthest from the earth. This inference is an important one, because there would be a marked difference between the brightness of the planet at that part of its path and at a point on the nearer half of its path where it would seem to lie at the same distance from the sun. At the last-named point much less than half the planet's disc would be illuminated, whereas at the former much more than half would be illuminated; and since the planet's distance from the earth does not change considerably (the planet being so near the sun) it follows that the planet is much brighter when nearly at the greatest distance from us than when nearly at its least distance. Since the star seen by Watson was so faint, shining little more brightly than Theta Cancri, though thus favourably placed for observation, we must infer that Vulcan is a very small planet. If he were as large as Mercury, he would, under similar conditions, shine at least five times as brightly, being so much more brilliantly illuminated by the sun. At a very moderate computation the disc of the body seen by Watson cannot have been greater than a hundredth part of the disc of Mercury at his mean distance. From this we should infer that the diameter of the stranger cannot be greater than about one-tenth of Mercury's, or say at the utmost about 350 miles. If so, such a planet in transit across the sun's face would not be very easily detected, and, indeed, one would scarcely have expected that Lescarbault would have seen Vulcan at all. There are other difficulties. It is quite certain that so small a body, unless its density enormously exceeds that of any known planet, would be quite unable to produce the perturbation detected by Leverrier. But if there were several such bodies, they should be seen frequently on the sun's face. It seems unlikely that there should be a flight of very small planets, and that only one among them would be large enough to be seen during total eclipse. We may, however, admit the possibility that Watson's planet is the only intra-mercurial planet, and that the rest of the perturbation discovered by Leverrier is to be explained as Newcomb was disposed to explain the entire disturbance, as due, namely, to the action of the family of relatively minute bodies round the sun whose lustre forms what is called the zodiacal light. In fact, the search made for bodies near the sun was so close upon this occasion, and the circumstances were so favourable for the detection of such bodies if they exist, that we are compelled to reject the belief that any other planets could have been in view than the one seen by Watson. For he and Professor Hall examined the whole neighbourhood of the sun, Hall taking, it would seem, the eastern side, and Watson the western.

We are thus led to the conclusion as at least highly probable, that within the orbit of Mercury there is a planet far inferior to Mercury in volume and mass, travelling round the sun in about 24 days, a distance of about 15 million miles. We find strong reason, also, for believing that the zodiacal light, which was seen during the late eclipse for the first time, not only occupies an enormous disc-shaped region around the sun, but is composed of matter the aggregate mass of which probably exceeds three or four times that of Mercury. If we accept the latter inference, we may at the same time safely infer from theoretical considerations a relation

which observations had hitherto left in doubt. The small bodies forming the zodiacal light must travel for the most part in planes nearly coincident with that of the path of Mercury, for if they did not the position of the last named plane would be affected by their disturbing action, and no such effect can be recognized. It will be manifest, we think, that astronomers will have abundant matter for observation during future total eclipses. The new planet must be seen several times before its orbit can be exactly determined, and doubtless Newcomb's success in observing the zodiacal light during total eclipse will encourage others to make similar observations with even greater care on future occasions.

Clippings.

An American gentleman, who not long since obtained a ticket and paid a lengthened visit to the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, said to a friend on his return:—"I have seen the arsenals on the Continent of Europe and those in my own country, but I have been astonished—indeed, may say appalled—at what I have seen at Woolwich. You ought to make no difficulty about showing it to foreigners. You have only to admit them freely; let them see your preparations, and no country in the world would think of fighting you."

General Tom Thumb on being lately asked by a visitor how he came by his name. "Well," said the General jocosely, "I suppose that Mr. Barnum and Queen Victoria divide the honours. Previous to my presentation to the Queen at Buckingham Palace, in 1844, I had been known simply as 'Tom Thumb,' but the Queen, when I had been presented to her in that form, said, with a smile, 'You ought to have a title. I think I shall have to call you General Tom Thumb.'" The Duke of Wellington and several others of the nobility were present at the time, and of course, Her Majesty's words were instantly adopted, and I became a 'General' from that time forward."

An American, named Fowler, arrived recently at Sandgate, about two miles west of Folkestone, having, according to his statement, crossed the channel from Boulogne in a contrivance which he terms "water boots." It consists of a pair of small skiffs, about 15 ft. long and a few inches in width, composed of india-rubber cloth, which are inflated with air, joined together by light iron stays, leaving a space of about 6 in. or 8 in. between them. In the centre there is a small piece of board, on which Fowler stood and paddled. He performed the journey in 11 hrs. 20 min., the sea being very calm. A small sailing yacht came across with him, the owner of which says that they reached mid-channel in four hours, when a strong current set in, and impeded their progress. Fowler packed his boat in a carpet-bag, and returned to Boulogne by the midnight boat.

GREAT REAPING MACHINE TRIALS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.—On Wednesday, a trial of Self-delivery Reapers and Self-binders came off at Penrith. Rain having fallen all the previous night and the crop being a heavy piece of oats, the qualities of the machines were put to a severe test. The Binders of Mr. McCormick and Mr. Walter A. Wood were tested by the Dynamometer, the draught being 3cwt, 3qrs. and 3cwt. 1qr. respectively. The Prize was awarded to the machine of the heavier draught, Mr. McCormick's. In the class for Self-delivery Reapers eight machines competed. The "Simplex" of Messrs. Howard, Bedford, took a draught of 1cwt. 3qrs. only, and after a second trial with the well-known American Machine of Walter A. Wood, it was awarded the First Prize in its class, the three next to it in point of draught being W. Anson Wood; Pickaley, Sims, and Co., and Walter A. Wood, whose machines all took a draught of 2cwt. 1qr., the heaviest being Messrs. Brigham's "Excelsior," 3cwt.—*The Times*, 17th August.

The *Foochow Herald* says the British barque *Glamorganshire*, bound from Hongkong to Nagasaki, arrived at Pagoda Anchorage on the 2nd Oct. in distress,—having been ashore during a typhoon on the island of Kien-kiu-san, one of the Meiacu-sima group, east of Formosa. Captain McEachern speaks in the highest terms of the kindness he received at the hands of the people of Kien-kiu-san—who worked night and day at the pumps, and but for whose timely and voluntary assistance it would have been well-nigh impossible to save the vessel. The inhabitants were also most hospitable,—pressing food as well as their almost indispensable labour on the distressed mariners, and refusing to receive any recompense whatsoever in consideration thereof. The local officials were also indefatigable in their endeavours to render assistance, and personally superintended the work of pumping the vessel. The Meiacu-sima group is, we believe, tributary to Japan, and the people dress their hair and are clad in the Japanese fashion. Their exceptionally kind treatment of the captain and crew of the *Glamorganshire* is deserving of all praise; and will we sincerely trust be recognised by the Home Government.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Genkai Maru*, for Nagasaki—Dr. Salter, Messrs. F. Major and A. Patterson. For Hiogo—Messrs. A. G. Low and R. S. Smith. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Howland and 2 children, Mrs. J. F. Shepard, Messrs. B. R. Lewis, J. J. Coffey and R. D. Cheetham. For San Francisco—Three U. S. seamen in steerage.

Per str. *Glennagles*, for Foochow—Mrs. Hannen and family. For New York—Mrs. H. S. Lawrence, Capt. Carter, Messrs. G. E. Boomer and W. Duncan. For Gibraltar—Mr. W. H. Tapp.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Shanghai*, from Chinkiang—Dr. Platt.

Per str. *Genkai Maru*, from Japan—Mr. and Mrs. Pugh and three children, Mrs. Chalmers, three children and European maid, Mr. and Mrs. Mooney, Capt. Bridgford, R.M.A., Messrs. H. Smith, F. E. Lewis Suzuki, Wimmer, Patterson, and Okwia.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Mr. Lowe.

Per str. *Europe*, from Foochow—Messrs. Porter and Hull.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Foochow—Messrs. Purdon and Dodwell.

Per str. *Nizam*, from Hongkong—Mr. Gray.

Per str. *Ningpo*, from Hongkong—Miss R. F. Katini, Mr. A. Brown, and two Europeans.

Per str. *Kiangching*, from Hankow—Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Howland & children.

Per str. *Chintung*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Miss M. Nozes, Mrs. Croad, Miss M. Allen, Messrs. B. Langton, Coutts, Dousdevis, and Master Allen.

Per str. *Swatow*, from Amoy—Mr. G. V. C. Fleas.

Per str. *Hankwang*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Chief Justice French, Mrs. Williams and child, Captain Carter, Messrs. Farago and McKinney.

Per str. *Sin Nanzing*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Dr. and Mrs. Little, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coutts, Mrs. Kerr, and Messrs. Zacharias and Fearon.

Per str. *Haeslin*, from Chefoo—Mrs. F. B. Forbes and family.

Per str. *Taku*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mrs. Poignand and child, and the two Master Thompsons.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Venicia*, for Venice—Dr. W. H. Morrison, Messrs. E. P. Hague and J. D. Crawford. For Hongkong—Mr. R. S. Raphael.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Hygrometer.		WIND.		Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
	9 A.M.	Atmospheric Therm.	Max.	Min.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Force.	Direction.	
Oct. 9	30.25	62.8	65.7	60.5	62.5	58.4	3	E.N.E.	..
10	30.24	65.0	66.8	59.3	65.1	59.3	2	E.	..
11	30.17	61.7	63.7	60.0	60.5	55.0	2	N.N.E.	..
12	30.11	60.3	61.9	57.0	58.9	57.0	2	N.N.W.	..
13	30.13	61.1	62.0	58.0	61.5	61.0	2	N.	..
14	30.12	64.5	71.5	59.0	64.0	62.1	1	E.S.E.	..

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; a. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.—Ten Lines (space *Bourgeois*) and under, *One Tacl*; each additional line *One Mace*. One-half of these charges for repetitions. Contracts may be made for 3 months, or longer, payable in advance.

SHANGHAI OPIUM AND SILK RETURNS FOR SEASON COMMENCING JUNE 1, 1878.

FROM IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

OPIUM

RETURN FOR WEEK ENDED 12TH OCTOBER, 1878.

IMPORTED				MALWA.		PATNA.		BENARES.		PERSIAN.	
				Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels				287	387.00	..	..	72	86.40	10	10.00
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed				..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1.00
Imported direct to the shore				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....				387	387.00	..	..	72	86.40	11	11.00
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption,				26	26.00	84	100.80	71	85.20	4	4.00

Description.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Total.
RE-EXPORTED.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.
Malwa	153 153.00	63 63.00	37 37.50	9 9.00	37 37.00	15 15.00	..	124 124.00	..	53 53.00	..	496 496.50
Patna	4 4.80	..	..	1 1.20	..	10 12.00	..	30 30.00	..	..	..	45 54.00
Benares	14 16.80	..	..	3 3.60	..	..	..	8 9.60	..	..	..	25 30.00
Persian	23 23.00	4 4.00	6 6.00	2 2.00	..	20 20.00	..	..	..	..	..	55 55.00
Total..	194 197.80	67 67.00	43 43.50	12 12.20	40 40.60	45 47.00	..	162 169.60	..	53 53.00	..	621 635.50

SILK.

	TO GREAT BRITAIN.	TO MARSEILLES AND CONTINENT.	TO AMERICA.	TO HONG-KONG, COAST PORTS, &c.	TOTAL CHINA.	JAPAN TRANSHIPPED.	GRAND TOTAL.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Total as per last Report	6,075	10,482	1,997	1,088	20,242	..	20,242
Subsequent Shipments	144	1,941	..	12	1,997	..	1,997
Total....	6,819	12,923	1,997	1,100	22,239	..	22,239

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.						TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Gleneagles	May 24	London	21,464.33	.....	21,464.33	Malabar	July 24	London	9,940.92	880.42	10,821.34
Loudoun Castle	" 26	"	20,043.24	.....	20,043.24	Zambesi	" 20	"	4,905.32	1,167.37	6,072.69
Anchises	" 24	"	327.72	326.18	653.90	"	" 20	Bombay	36.98	32.27	69.25
Lombardy	" 25	"	392.87	.....	392.87	Hector	" 26	London	3,313.89	306.29	3,620.38
"	" 25	Bombay	.....	89.38	89.38	Standard	" 26	"	4,424.88	36.56	4,461.44
Ocean King	" 29	London	19,092.00	.....	19,092.00	Anadyr	" 27	"	0.78	637.69	638.47
Glenartney	" 29	"	17,775.19	.....	17,775.19	Fleurs Castle... ..	Aug. 5	"	20,234.52	.....	20,234.52
Radnorshire	"	"	16,385.45	.....	16,385.45	Surat	" 3	"	3,585.59	602.94	4,188.53
Glennear	June 1	"	13,699.74	.....	13,699.74	"	" 3	Bombay	.....	23.25	23.25
Sindh	" 1	Marseilles	12.67	.....	12.67	Teucer	" 9	London	5,659.69	33.50	5,693.19
Sarpedon	"	London	17,596.40	.....	17,596.40	Peiho	" 10	"	2.23	430.61	423.84
Stad Haarlem.. ..	" 6	"	19,047.73	.....	19,047.73	City of Baltimore ..	" 12	"	5,605.87	68.13	5,674.00
Thibet	" 8	"	3,831.96	.....	3,831.96	Pekin	" 18	"	4,210.04	1,332.61	5,542.65
"	" 8	Hamburg	1.20	.....	1.20	Mikado	" 20	"	4,441.02	386.31	4,827.33
"	" 8	Bombay	0.75	39.62	40.37	Djennah	" 24	"	0.42	440.29	440.71
Afghan	" 10	London	18,598.93	.....	18,598.93	Windhover..... s.v.	" 31	"	8,722.56	138.07	8,860.63
Hankow	" 13	"	23,067.06	.....	23,067.06	Ajax	" 31	"	1,244.39	474.71	1,719.10
Orestes	" 13	"	1,280.93	.....	1,280.93	Strathleven	" 31	"	6,240.05	559.25	6,799.30
N'veau Mondelli s.v.	" 13	Nicolajefsk	1,548.87	.....	1,548.87	Hesperia	" 31	"	529.29	.....	529.29
Argyle	" 18	London	11,472.18	.....	11,472.18	"	" 31	Hamburg	25.71	.....	25.71
Yangtze	" 15	"	441.15	.....	441.15	Kashgar	" 31	London	1,791.43	1,721.23	3,512.66
"	" 15	Marseilles	34.22	.....	34.22	"	" 31	Venice	1.30	.....	1.30
Menelaus	" 21	London	3,443.14	.....	3,443.14	"	" 31	Bombay	2.66	48.32	50.98
Sunda	" 22	"	301.92	.....	301.92	Iraouaddy	Sept. 7	London	34.00	0.45	34.45
"	" 22	Bombay	6.21	35.54	41.75	"	" 7	Bombay	.....	26.46	26.46
Coriolanus	" 25	London	11,460.13	.....	11,460.13	Altous	" 13	London	4,370.00	254.28	4,624.28
Patroclus	" 27	"	3,742.82	.....	3,742.82	Glaucus	" 14	"	1,725.44	163.22	1,888.66
"	" 27	Hamburg	3.20	.....	3.20	Khediye	" 14	"	3,980.72	342.25	4,272.97
Ava	" 29	London	227.89	36.00	263.89	"	" 14	Bombay	112.80	179.20	292.00
"	" 29	Marseilles	11.39	.....	11.39	Serapis	" 18	London	8,473.18	.....	8,473.18
Sestos	July 6	London	2,248.79	369.25	2,618.04	Titanian	" 19	"	6,011.96	.....	6,011.96
Teheran	" 6	"	5,152.54	706.87	5,859.41	Sindh	" 21	"	.....	107.76	107.76
"	" 6	Dunedin	13.59	.....	13.59	"	" 21	Bombay	.....	32.51	32.51
"	" 6	Bombay	27.41	.....	27.41	Ulysses	" 25	London	4,721.81	920.71	5,642.52
Achilles	" 9	London	3,448.04	.....	3,448.04	Hindustan	Oct. 3	Hongkong	.....	30.02	30.02
"	" 9	Odessa	68.70	.....	68.70	"	" 3	London	.....	396.58	396.58
Viking.....	" 10	London	20,346.69	1,553.81	21,900.50	"	" 3	Bombay	.....	202.92	202.92
Dago	" 12	"	15,452.59	484.43	15,937.02	Priam	" 3	London	1,240.83	450.70	1,721.53
Amazon	" 13	"	398.47	506.39	904.86	Syria	" 9	"	4,231.47	404.24	4,635.71
Glengyle	" 17	"	14,595.40	.....	14,595.40	Diomed	" 9	"	63.76	338.40	402.16
Feronia	"	"	12,021.98	.....	12,021.98	Tigre	" 10	"	65.72	238.74	304.46
Kolga	" 17	Nicolajefsk	1,405.18	.....	1,405.18	"	" 10	Bombay	.....	53.11	53.11
Stentor	" 19	London	3,955.01	373.36	4,328.37	Total			439,386.48	18,012.40	457,398.88
Cairasmuir	" 21	"	15,049.57	.....	15,049.57						

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.						TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tokio Maru s.s.	June 4	Nagasaki	298.76	.....	298.76	Gordon Castle.. s.s.	July 27	New York	1,093.68	1,852.37	2,946.05
" "	" 4	Higo	4.16	.....	4.16	Hiroshima Maru ..	Aug. 6	"	1.01	692.15	693.16
" "	" 4	Yokohama	4.85	.....	4.85	" "	" 6	Chicago	51.50	.....	51.50
Hiroshima Maru ..	" 8	New York	236.13	.....	236.13	Saikio Maru ...	" 22	New York	208.40	207.12	415.52
" "	" 8	Boston	141.43	.....	141.43	" "	" 22	Chicago	.....	784.94	784.94
Orestes	" 8	New York	172.07	.....	172.07	" "	" 22	San F'cisco	17.81	1.73	19.54
Nagoya Maru....	" 20	"	842.21	.....	842.21	Gleniffer	" 31	New York	285.94	2,528.51	2,814.00
" "	" 20	Boston	88.02	.....	88.02	Nagoya Maru ...	Sept. 10	"	1.64	493.60	495.24
Menelaus	" 21	New York	44.21	.....	44.21	" "	" 10	Chicago	212.70	550.46	763.16
Patroclus	" 27	"	204.33	.....	204.33	" "	" 10	San F'cisco	6.30	115.23	121.53
Saikio Maru	" 25	Yokohama	14.80	.....	14.80	Merionethshire..	" 19	New York	687.04	9,185.70	9,872.74
Tokio Maru	July 2	New York	130.07	.....	130.07	City of Santiago ..	" 26	"	.....	3,517.72	3,517.72
" "	" 2	Chicago	76.91	.....	76.91	Hiroshima Maru ..	Oct. 2	Chicago	16.34	960.37	976.71
" "	" 2	San F'cisco	235.39	.....	235.39	" "	" 2	San F'cisco	9.00	112.69	121.69
" "	" 2	Nagasaki	3.30	.....	3.30	" "	" 2	New York	.....	699.40	699.40
Anchises.....	" 9	New York	1.65	.....	1.65	" "	" 2	Yokohama	5.54	.....	5.54
Glenorchy	" 16	"	1,206.57	1,210.07	2,416.64	Ocean King.....	" 10	New York	33.97	6,807.34	6,841.31
Saikio Maru	" 22	"	70.98	334.54	405.52	Total.....	.....	.....	6,406.26	30,294.74	36,701.00
" "	" 22	Chicago	.....	111.32	111.32						
" "	" 22	San F'cisco	.....	129.48	129.48						

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 16TH OCTOBER, 1878.

PIECE GOODS.—Another exceedingly dull week has passed, scarcely any sales having been made by importers, beyond those at Auction, and the bulk of the business being re-sales by the dealers of their goods purchased to arrive, which they have placing at some reduction on the rates lately current; such as 8½-lbs. Shirtings at 6 to 7 candareens lower rates, and Drills at about the same decline.

At one time there seemed the chance of a recovery in Shirtings owing to a demand for Japan, and the report that auctioneers were buying back their late sales, but it did not last, and continued bad reports from the Outports made the dealers fear that the best of the season is now over. There has been some anxiety amongst the native Banks, and fears about the stability of the produce men, but beyond the failure of a small Bank, nothing has happened. Native interest has become much dearer.

The telegraphic news of the failure of Messrs. Hough Balfour & Co. of Manchester, has not had the effect of stopping the weekly Auction of their goods, and it will take place as usual to-day.

Camlets and Long Ells continue to decline rapidly, and some Fancy Goods are going the same way, whilst others keep steady.

GREY SHIRTINGS.—8½-lbs.—The only sales reported are 6,000 pieces, say 3-Fish at £1.67½, Red Pheasant at £1.60, 2-Lion at £1.52½, Large Eagle at £1.48, Red Stork at £1.47; and of 7-lbs. 4,500 pieces Yellow Stag at £1.32½, and Red Joss at £1.40, and at Auction the rates are much the same as last week—in some cases a bit lower; 6 and 7-lbs. are however saleable.

In T-CLOTHS and WHITE SHIRTINGS no sales have been made privately, and a few pieces of the latter were sold at Auction at 2 candareens lower.

DRILLS.—Only 1,200 pieces 14-lbs. Dragon at £1.86 have been sold; and of American, 2,250 pieces Joss and 750 pieces Hamilton's at £2.75, with 300 pieces Dragon at £2.82½; Chinese are still re-selling their goods at from 2.75 to 2.80.

OF AMERICAN SHEETINGS, a sale is quoted of Elephant at £2.52½, and further sales of American Shirtings have been made.

VELVETS and VELVETEENS.—Looking at the Auction sales both are lower, and FIGURED ORLEANS have not been in such active demand as before.

In WOOLLENS, CAMLETS, continue to fall rapidly, being again 2 to 3 mace lower, Scarlet Long Ells have fallen another mace, and Spanish Stripes are lower for some colors.

P.S.—At to-day's Auction, Grey Shirtings continue to fall, being 1 to 5 candareens lower than last week, but T-Cloths are without much change; Drills and Fancy Goods are also lower; Camlets are down to 3 to 6 mace; Scarlet Long Ells 15 candareens, and Spanish Stripes 1 candareen.

	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Lt. Gt.	Black.	Purple.	Green.	Orange.	Mauve.	Ash & Lav.	White	Total Sales
YUEN-FONG, 10th inst.												
Camlets S.S.G. p. pce. £	11.15	11.10	11.90/12.	11.77½	11.22½/5	.....	.....	11.25/7½	11.02½/7½	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	170	50	130	10	20	.....	.....	20	30	.....	...	430
G.G. per pce. £	11.10	.....	11.90	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.20	11.00	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	40	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	10	.....	...	80
Long Ells "	£	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
S. Stripes T.T.B. p. yd. £	0.55½	0.54½	0.61	.....	.....	0.54½	0.51½	.....	.....	.....	0.53½	...
Sales, pcs...	132	24	60	.....	.....	12	12	.....	.....	.....	12	252
KIN-MING, 15th inst.												
Camlets C.P.H. p. pce. £	11.82½/4	11.88/93	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	150	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	200
Long Ells C.P.H. p. pce. £	6.66/7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	300
Lasting, Lion p. pce. £	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.27½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	40
Elephant p. pce. £	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.97½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	40
S. Stripes C.P.H. p. yd. £	0.54½	0.52½	0.58.3/8.6	0.60	0.49½	0.51.6	0.51½	0.44½	0.53½	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	95	6	36	36	6	6	6	6	6	.....	...	204
E-wo, 16th inst.												
Camlets H.D.B. p. pce. £	10.90/2½	11.02½/7½	11/82.5	11.57½	10.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	130	80	70	40	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	330
Long Ells H.D.B. p. pce. £	6.43/5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	260	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	260
Sp. Stripes " p. yd. £	0.52½/½	0.48	0.56/7	.....	0.47½	.....	0.50	0.47½	0.52	0.51.6	...	...
Sales, pcs...	48	12	18	.....	18	.....	6	6	6	6	...	120
MISCELLANEOUS.												
Sp. Stripes Horse p. yd. £	0.51	0.49	0.59½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	72	12	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	114

AUCTION SALES OF COTTON GOODS—

"Yuen Fong,"—10th instant—

	Total.
GRAY SHIRTINGS.—8½-lbs. House, at £1.48 to 1.48½	= 1,650 pcs.
WHITE SHIRTINGS.—64-reed Lighthouse, at £1.57½	= 1,000 "
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS.—2½-lbs. Man and Gun, at £1.32 to 1.32½	= 500 "
VELVETS.—22-inch Woman, at £0.13.72½	= 150 "
VELVETEENS.—18-inch Stag, at £0.11.8 to 0.11.82½	= 60 "

"King Ming,"—15th instant—

	Red Ram.	Red Camel.	Red Lion.	Blue Lion.	
GRAY SHIRTINGS.—8½-lbs.	£1.61	£1.51½ to 1.52	£1.55½ to 1.56	£1.54½ to 1.55	.....
Sales, pcs...	250	250	2,500	1,750	.....
WHITE SHIRTINGS.—64-reed Green Lion, at £1.64½	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 4,750 "
	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 143 "

"Nie Kee,"—15th instant—

	Fisherman, 2 to 2½-lbs.	Flute Player, 2½-lbs.	Sun, 2½ to 2½-lbs.	
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS.....	£1.30 to 1.54	£1.31½	£1.37½ to 1.32½	.....
Sales, pcs...	650	200	150	.....
TURKEY RED T-CLOTHS.—4½-lbs., at £2.80	.....	.....	.....	= 1,000 "
	.....	.....	.....	= 200 "

"E. Wo."—16th instant—

	Blue Unicorn.	Green Unicorn.	Red Unicorn.	Yellow Unicorn.	Black Unicorn.	Blue Stork.	Total.
GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs.	£1.60½	£1.56½ to 1.57	£1.55½	—	£1.51½	£1.49½ to 1.50	
Sales, pecs.	250	500	1,000	—	550	1,000	= 3,300 pecs.
7-lbs.	—	—	£1.39	—	—	—	
Sales, pecs.	—	—	250	—	—	—	= 250 "
6-lbs.	—	—	£1.26	—	—	—	
Sales, pecs.	—	—	300	—	—	—	= 300 "
T-CLOTHS—8-lbs.	£1.43½	£1.39	£1.30½	—	—	—	
Sales, pecs.	250	250	1,500	—	—	—	= 2,000 "
7-lbs.	£1.20 to 1.20½	£1.14½ to 1.14½	£1.11½	£1.02½	—	—	
Sales, pecs.	750	1,000	250	2,500	—	—	= 4,500 "
Yellow Unicorn, 6-lbs., at £0.97½; Red Unicorn at 0.92½ to 0.93½							= 1,500 "
JEANS—8-lbs., at £1.30							= 500 "
DRILLS—14-lbs. Dragon D, £1.83½ to 1.86; 14-lbs. A, £1.85½ to 1.86							= 960 "
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS—2½-lbs., £1.36							= 250 "
VELVETS—22-inch, at £0.13.65							= 60 "
SUNDRY ACTIONS—							
VELVETEENS—18-inch Horse and Stag, at £0.11.8; 26-inch, at £0.16							= 270 "
VELVETS—22-inch Woman, at £0.13.62½							= 240 "

ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.		ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.	
<i>Cotton Piece Goods.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>		<i>T.m.c.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS—			BROAD CLOTH.....per yard	1.25	@ 1.60
38½ yds. 39 in. 6-lbs. per piece	1.22	@ 1.28	CAMLETS—		
7-lbs.	1.31	1.43	English, SS, 56 yds. 31 in. Assorted.per piece	11.00	12.00
8½ to 8½-lbs.	1.46	1.76	LONG ELLS—		
Dewhurst XX	1.80	—	Scarlet, 24 yds. 31 in. 12-lbs.	6.10	6.65
9 to 9½-lbs. nom.	1.90	2.05	Assorted	6.00	6.30
9.12 to 10-lbs. common quality	2.00	2.35	LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in.	7.50	11.00
best quality.....	2.40	2.55	CRAPE LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in. Asst.	3.70	7.50
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—			" LUSTRES, Assorted nom.	2.70	3.25
40 yds. 36 in. 56 reed nom.	1.40	1.55	ORLEANS, Figured, 30 yds. 30 in. Asst.	3.10	3.50
60 reed nom.	1.45	1.55	Plain, 30 yds. 31 in. Black.	3.10	3.45
64 reed	1.55	1.65	<i>Metals and Sundries.</i>		
64 reed best	1.70	1.91	JAPAN COPPER—Slabs per picul	15.60	15.90
66 to 72 reed	1.90	2.10	" Ore	14.25	14.60
best	2.10	2.60	QUICKSILVER	51.00	52.00
AMERICAN DRILLS—			TIN PLATES—14 x 10 per box	3.95	4.15
40 yds. 30 in. 14-lbs.....	2.75	2.82½	STEEL	3.00	3.05
AMERICAN JEANS—			Bamboo	3.20	3.40
30 yds. 30 in. 6½ to 8-lbs.	1.40	2.15	TIN, Fong Hing	15.80	15.90
AMERICAN SHEETINGS—			Quang-dia	15.50	15.60
40 yds. 40 in. 14-lbs. best	2.62	2.75	Fok Chok	15.40	15.50
ENGLISH DRILLS—			HOOP IRON	2.30	2.40
40 yds. 30 in. 14 to 15-lbs.....	1.84	2.00	PIG IRON	16.00	18.00
best	2.05	2.30	IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 & 14 per picul	4.40	—
ENGLISH JEANS—			" " 11 & 21	4.60	—
30 yds. 30 in. 8 to 8½-lbs.	1.30	1.80	" " 15 & 25	5.40	—
ENGLISH SHEETINGS—			IRON—Nail Rod—		
40 yds. 40 in. 14 & 16-lbs.	1.95	2.25	Dawes' Best	1.92½	—
DUTCH DRILLS—			H. Rogers, Sons & Co.	1.85	1.90
30 in. 40 yds.	2.10	2.20	M.M. Crown	1.75	1.80
DUTCH JEANS—			Belgian	1.62½	1.66
30 in. 40 yds.	1.60	1.90	Flat and Round	2.00	2.30
T-CLOTHS—			Do. Belgian.....	1.80	1.90
6-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ordinary, ...	0.95	0.98	LEAD, common brands nom. per picul	4.20	4.30
7-lbs. " "	1.00	1.08	L B.	4.42½	4.50
7-lbs. " Mexican	1.10	1.50	SUGAR		
8 & 8½-lbs. 36 in.	1.30	1.65	Black, common per picul	2.80	3.30
XX and best	1.70	1.90	" Formosa	3.30	3.80
HANDKERCHIEFS, Blue, 28 in. to 32 in. per doz.	0.41	0.60	White, No. 1	6.30	6.70
Brown, 28 in., nom.	0.40	0.42	" No. 2	5.60	6.30
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS per piece	2.00	2.40	" No. 3	5.00	5.50
BROCADES, White, 40 yds. 36 in., nom.	1.60	1.70	PEPPER—Black	6.60	—
Dyed, Assorted	2.30	2.60	White	5.90	—
DAMASES, Assorted, 40 yds. 28 in., nom. per piece	3.80	4.20	RATTANS—Common per picul	2.20	2.60
CHINTZ, Assorted, 28 yds. 28 in.	1.30	1.45	Good to line	3.00	4.00
Blue	1.18	1.23	Best	4.50	4.80
Brown	1.15	1.25	SAPAN WOOD—		
Scarlet	1.30	1.50	3 pieces to the picul	2.20	2.60
TURKEY REDS, 24 yds. 32 in. 2½ to 3-lbs.	1.25	1.80	6 & 7, " & inf.	1.50	1.60
VELVETS, Black, 22 in. per yard	0.13½	0.17	SANDALWOOD, South Sea	7.00	12.00
VELVETEENS, Black, 18 in.	0.11½	0.13½	Timor	3.20	3.50
26 in.	0.15½	0.19	Malabar	17.00	19.00
MUSLINS, 12 yds. 42 in. nom. per piece	0.60	0.68	WINDOW GLASS—		
DIMITIES, 12 yds. 36 in.	1.15	1.30	Large	2.15	2.40
41 in.	1.40	1.55	Small	1.90	2.00
YARN, Cotton, Nos. 28 & 32 per bale	65.00	80.00	KEROSENE—Devco's per case	1.78	1.80
SPANISH STRIPES, Assorted.....per yard	0.49	0.56	COTTON—Shanghai per picul	9.80	11.50
MEDIUM and HABIT CLOTHS	0.70	1.05	FLINT STONES	0.43	—

METALS.—The market for Nail Rods is better, and Belgian may be quoted 5 to 8 candareens per picul higher; sales have been made of 5,000 bundles at £1.67½, and also 4,000 bundles damaged at Auction at £1.69. Of English Nail Rods, sales are 10,000 bundles M. M. Crown at £1.74, 8,000 J. M. Crown at £1.83, and 4,000 bundles J. M. Crown at £1.78 for damaged. 100 tons of English Bar Iron was booked "to arrive" at £1.99.

LEAD is firm, £4.42½ cash being offered for L. B., but no sales have been made.

TIN PLATES—350 boxes were settled at £3.92½.

KEROSENE OIL.—The market closes very weak, sales have been made at from £1.82½ down to £1.78.

FREIGHTS.—Forward Ho, British ship, 942 tons, Nagasaki and back, two voyages, 50 lay days, \$4,100, in full; Capella, Swedish barque, 379 tons, Nagasaki to this, 14 lay days, \$1.40 per ton; Abnania, American schooner, 387 tons, Shanghai to Tientsin, private terms; Omega, British barque, 482 tons, Nagasaki to this, 18 lay days, \$1.70 per ton; Hilda, British barque, 306 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 20 lay days, \$0.25 per picul; Hedvig, Swedish barque, 556 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 20 lay days, \$0.24 per picul; Noveau Mandelli, British barque, 385 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 20 lay days, \$0.27 per picul; Inverness, British barque, 725 tons, Nagasaki and back, 20 lay days, \$1,600, in full; J. R. Worcester, British ship, 844 tons, Shanghai to New York, private terms.

OPIUM.—Receipts of Opium since last report	MALWA, 1,089 Chests.		BENGAL, 1,200 Chests.
Stock on the 3rd instant	3,890½	"	1,187
	Total...	"	
Deliveries since the 3rd instant	4,969½	"	2,387
	1,263,	"	519
Present Stock	3,706½	"	1,868
Against Stock same time last year	1,882	"	1,163
Increase	1,824½	"	Decrease 705

EXPORTS.

SILK.—We quote the following from Mr. W. T. Phipps' circular :—The unsettled state of affairs and the scarcity of money at home have lately checked any inclination to do any general business in silk on this market.

Continental buyers have been buying steadily during the fortnight under review, and a more than usually good demand has been apparent amongst buyers of re-reels for America. The few settlements of Tsattees this week show no change in prices since the French mail of the 10th inst., and only Tls. 5 decline for the fortnight. Interest is higher the last day or so however, and natives are exhibiting some anxiety to sell. Kahings are neglected, and coarse silks generally have only been moderately dealt in for some time.

The purchases include—

For the French Mail.

	Per picul.	Per lb.
		Ex. 5/2½ & 12 %
Koo-fong-sing's Chop Tsattee for No. 3	Tls. 482½	= 19/3
"May-fong" Elephant	Tls. 385	= 17/9
Blue Peacock "Tun-ling"	Tls. 590	= 17/6
Buffalo Chop No. 2	Tls. 380	= 17/6
Dancing Bear Nos. 2 and 3	Tls. 380 @ 380	= 17/6 and 17/1
S. S. S.	Tls. 387½	= 16/6
Sin-uen-fong's "Kin-ling" Kahing Taysaams	Tls. 352½	= 15/10
Fair Minchu Yellow Silks	Tls. 257½ @ 295	= 13/0 and 13/4
Fair Szechong Yellow Silks	Tls. 170 @ 175	= 7/10 and 8/1

For this Mail.

	Per picul.	Per lb.
		Ex. 5/2½ & 12 %
Blue Elephant	Tls. 385	= 17/3
Dancing Bear Nos. 2 and 3	Tls. 380 and 380	= 17/5 and 17/0
Mountain Chop, No. 2	Tls. 380	= 17/0
"Van-shen" and "Chay-shen"	Tls. 372½ and 357½	= 16/8 and 16/0
Bird Chop No. 3	Tls. 370	= 16/7
S. S. S.	Tls. 370	= 16/7
Hangchow Tsattee "Tsaang-pin"	Tls. 365	= 16/4
Green Kahing Taysaams	Tls. 312½ @ 325	= 14/0 @ 14/7

Settlements to date are about 23,250 bales for all ports ; business up-country is reported to be small, and arrivals are coming forward slowly.

HANKOW.

TEA.—The *Hankow Tea Market Report* of the 12th Oct. says there is only a small business to report since date of last issue, settlements being 5,000 half-chests, almost all Shuntam leaf, at from Tls. 10.50 a 11.10 per picul, Russians being the only buyers. Arrivals for the fortnight are 7,500 half-chests, and shipments to Shanghai on native account 4,286 half-chests. No musters have been shown the last two or three days, and the market is quite bare of stocks. As the season may now almost be considered at an end, there will be no further issue of this Report. The total export of Hankow District Teas and *Siftings* is 8,882,103 lbs. under that at same date last year, and 11,449,091 lbs. short of last season's total yield. The following figures indicate the entire business to date (inclusive of Kiukiang Teas) as contrasted with the settlements to 12th October last year.

	1878.	1877.	1878.
For England	374,810 Chests.	†337,490 Chests.	Increase 37,320 Chests.
„ Russia	* 78,460	†143,280	Decrease 69,820
„ Shanghai	71,693	95,220	„ 23,527

* 206,170 ½-chests Kiukiang Tea included. † 140,640 ½-chests Kiukiang Tea included.

On comparing quotations now current with those of the two previous seasons, the result is as under :—

	1878.	1877.	1876.
Shuntam packed.....	Tls. 10.50 a 11.10	Tls. 7.00	Tls. 9.00 per picul.

Business reported during the fortnight is as follows :—

	1878.	1877.
Settlements	5,056	4,010 ½-chests.
Shipments to Shanghai on native account.....	2,143	3,590 „

Direct shipments compared with last year are as under :—

	1878.	1877.	1878.
To London.....	39,917,416 lbs.	25,307,681 lbs.	Increase 14,609,735 lbs.
„ Tientsin	1,014,183 „	Nil.	1,014,183 „
„ Shanghai	18,262,697 „	39,704,502 „	Decrease 21,441,805 „

†59,194,296 †65,012,183
† Inclusive of Kiukiang Teas.

The export to date as per Customs Returns stands thus :—

	Season 1878 x 79	47,184,196 lbs.	Exclusive of Re-exports.	12,010,100 lbs.
„ 1877 x 78	56,066,299 „	„	„	8,945,884 „
„ 1876 x 77	61,544,903 „	„	„	9,805,526 „
„ 1875 x 76	53,803,036 „	„	„	9,074,136 „

Freights.—The through rate by Holt's steamers is £2.5 per ton of 40 feet.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

OCTOBER 17, 1878.

ARRIVALS during the week.—October 11th, P. & O. steamer *Nizam*, with the English mails, &c.;
13th, British steamer *El Dorado*, from London, &c.

DEPARTURES during the week.—October 10th, British steamer *Diomed*, for London via Suez Canal; 11th, British steamer *Syria*, for London via Foochow; British steamer *Ocean King*, for New York via Amoy; M.M. steamer *Tigre*, with the French mails, &c.;
M.B.M. steamer *Genkai Maru*, with the American mails, &c.; British steamer *Gleneagles*, for New York, &c.

The English mail steamer *Venetia* takes about 575 bales of Silk and about 200 tons of Tea.

EXCHANGE.—On London, Telegraphic Transfers, no quotations. Bank Bills, 6 months' sight, 5s. 2½d. First-class Credits to Bank, 5s. 2½d. Private and Documentary, 5s. 2½d. On Paris, Bank, 6.50. Private 6.57. On India, Bombay Bank, demand, Rs. 306½ to 307; Calcutta Bank, demand, Rs. 306½ to 307. On Hongkong, Bank Bills, demand, 28 per cent. discount. Private, 15 days' sight, 28½. Bullion, Gold Bars, Peking, Shanghai Tls. 189.75 per bar of 10 Tls. Shanghai weight. Bar Silver, Shanghai Tls. 111.20 per 100 taels Canton weight. Mexican dollars, Shanghai Tls. 72.25 per 100. Copper Cash, 1,445 per tael.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 17th October, 1878.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business has been very dull. One or two lots have changed hands at 72% and 70% premium, and exchange 72½. A lot has since been sold at 72% premium for 31st March. The market is now very weak, with sellers at 68% premium for cash, and no buyers. We quote the rate 66% premium, nominal.

China Coast Steam Navigation Co.—Shares were placed during the week at £101 to £102 for 31st current. There are sellers at £98 for cash.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Shares are wanted in small lots at £240.

Pootung Dock Co.—There are sellers at £97.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Shares are offering at £153.

Compagnie du Gaz.—A lot has changed hands at £153. Buyers offer £155.

Yangtze Insurance Association.—Shares are offering at £720.

In Fire Insurance shares no business is reported. Our quotations are nominal.

Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—Business is reported at £155. There are sellers at the same rate.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
<i>Bank.</i>									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	40,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,200,000	\$19,243.05	30 June 78	• 21	20 Aug. 78	66% prem. nominal.
<i>Steamer Companies.</i>									
Shanghai Steam Navigation Co. (in Liquidation)	22,500	£100	£17	.....	.....	30 Dec. 77	{ Return of 2 1/2 on capital.	8 Ap. 78	19.20
China Coast Steam Navigation Co.	5,000	£100	£100	£66,273.42	£11,979.42	31 Dec. 77	+ 7 %	15 Mar. 78	98
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	900	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125 ex dividend.
<i>Docks.</i>									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	£10,109.90	.....	30 June 78	• 2 %	6 July 78	240
Pootung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	• 5 %	6 July 78	97
<i>Gas.</i>									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	£100	£100	£8,640.30	.....	31 Dec. 77	• 5 %	15 July 78	153
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£4,515.76	£1,033.37	31 Dec. 77	• 5 1/2 %	18 July 78	155
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	600	1,666.67	\$500	\$225,000.00	\$92,935.52	30 Apl. 78	12 %	31 July 78	1,550
North-China Ins. Co., 1875/77 Do. 1878	1,000	£2,000	£600	£257,900.42	1,010,494.62	31 Dec. 77	£140	2 July 78	30
Union In. Society of Canton ...	500	\$2,500	\$500	\$210,500.00	\$119,006.38	31 Dec. 76	.....	.....	1,225
Yangtze Insurance Association	1,200	£350	£350	£334,144.48	£74,285.99	15 Apr. 78	• 6 %	11 July 78	1,700
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$74,133.82	.....	30 Dec. 76	• 6 %	1 Jan. 78	720
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>									
Hongkong Fire In. Co., Limited	2,000	\$1,000	\$200	\$632,302.00	\$260,157.58	30 Dec. 77	+ \$56.75 p.sh.	20 Feb. 78	930 nominal.
China Fire In. Co., Limited ...	4,000	\$500	\$100	\$346,896.00	\$145,719.72	30 Dec. 77	+ 12 %	31 Dec. 77	240 Do.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,150	£100	£100	£5,000.00	£557.91	30 Dec. 77	• 5 %	15 Aug. 78	155

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Nominal Value of Bonds or Debentrs.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1872	£ 28,700.00	£ 100.00	8 %	30th April & 31st Oct.	} £104½
Do. 1873	£ 21,000.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1875	£ 42,800.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1878	£ 24,000.00	£ 100.00	"	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	
Lycium Theatre Ordinary Debentures..	£ 17,000.00	£ 25.00	"	30th June.	£ 10
Do. Preference do.	£ 5,362.50	£ 37.50	5 %	31st Dec.	£ 20
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1874	£ 627,615	£ 100	8 %	30th June & 31st Dec.	£101
Do. do. 1877	£1,604,276	£ 100	8 %	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	£105

* For half-year. + For year.

J. P. BISSET & Co.

WEATHER.—The weather has been again variable during the week, and the thermometer has ranged from 56 to 72.

COPIES OF THE TREATIES

BETWEEN

THE EMPIRE OF CHINA AND FOREIGN POWERS, TOGETHER WITH REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN TRADE, **ARE NOW ON SALE.**

THE Publication of this Work has been undertaken in order to meet a requirement long expressed and widely recognised. The present collection brings together and renders available for general purposes of reference all the TREATIES that have been concluded between CHINA and FOREIGN POWERS, together with the greater portion of the various REGULATIONS which have been successively agreed upon during the last sixteen years; and the TREATY of Peace, &c. between JAPAN and COREA (CHOSEN.) Several instruments, though not now in force, find place in the work, as the French Treaty of 1844, and the U. S. Treaty of same year; also, the Emigration Convention of 1866, and the Articles of Revision negotiated 1868-1869, by Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, K.C.B.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of a copy of a work entitled "Treaties between the Empire of China and Foreign Powers," edited by Mr. W. F. Mayers, Chinese Secretary to Her Britannic Majesty's Legation at Peking, and published at the North-China Herald office, Shanghai. Among various treaties given, it contains several which have been abrogated and others which have never been ratified but which are historically interesting. The volume is well printed and bound and reflects great credit on the publisher.—*Daily Press*.

We have received from the North-China Herald office of a copy of the "Treaties between the Empire of China and Foreign Powers" just published by our contemporary. The book is convenient in size, neatly and strongly bound, and consists of no less than 230 pages. It contains all the Treaties that have been concluded between China and Foreign Powers, together with the greater portion of the various Regulations which have been successively agreed upon during the last sixteen years, and the recently concluded Treaty between Japan and Corea. Several instruments, though not now in force, find place in the work, as the French Treaty of 1844 and the United States Treaty of the same year; also, the Emigration Convention of 1866, and the Articles of Revision negotiated in 1869 by Sir Rutherford Alcock. This is, we believe, the only complete work of this kind that has been published, and it reflects considerable credit upon the enterprising office in question.—*China Mail*.

Many of our readers will have felt, at one time or another, the inconvenience of not having at hand for reference a copy of such and such a foreign Treaty with China. Several of these had never been printed. Others had been separately printed after negotiation, for semi-private use; others have seen the light in the columns of newspapers, and others again have been recorded in European publications such as the *British and Foreign State Papers*, compiled in London by Mr. Edward Hertslet, or in the *Archives Diplomatiques*, the corresponding Parisian work; but for all general purposes they have remained virtually inaccessible. Under the editorship of Mr. W. F. Mayers, all the several treaties and agreements which have been from time to time concluded to China with other nations, have now been collected and printed at the North-China Herald office in a convenient volume of some 250 pages. The large number of copies which have been subscribed for beforehand proves that the work will be especially welcome at Consulates, Legations, and Customs Offices, and we have no doubt it will be found a necessary book of reference by many private readers. There are some documents in it which will bye-and-bye call for especial notice. In the meantime we merely acknowledge the book, the subscription copies of which will, we understand, be distributed next week, as quickly as they can be prepared.—*N.-C. Herald*.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the much needed volume, "Treaties between the Empire of China and Foreign Powers, &c.," which, under the editorship of Mr. W. F. Mayers, Chinese Secretary of H.B.M.'s Legation at Peking, has been published at the North-China Herald office. Since 1860, the editor tells us, no attempt has been made to bring together the greater portion of the various Treaties and Regulations which have been successively agreed upon since that period. The object of the present volume is to supply in a form adapted for easy reference, all treaties and regulations actually in force, from the Nanking Treaty between England and China signed in 1842; and a complete compendium of all the provisos under which the international relations of the Chinese Government are conducted are now within reach. The whole are bound in a well-printed, compact volume, with an elaborate index of subjects, which will render it most useful. All foreigners in the far-east must have it, if they would know the precise terms of their residence and trading in China.—*Shanghai Courier & Evening Gazette*.

The *Treaties between the Empire of China and Foreign Powers*. Shanghai: The North-China Herald Office; London: Trübner and Co.—This work, to which we have already directed attention, will supply a want much felt at the present time. It collects together all the treaties between China and Foreign Powers, and thus makes it easy to refer to our actual position upon any given point, which it is impossible to ascertain without consulting other treaties as in some cases we are entitled to more than is expressed in our own treaty, by virtue of the most favoured nation clause. The present collection gives, in addition to the different treaties, the various regulations agreed upon from time to time; and has also Sir Rutherford Alcock's Convention of 1869, and the Chefoo Agreement, now under consideration of the Government.—*London and China Express*.

"NORTH-CHINA HERALD" OFFICE,
SHANGHAI, June 1878.